MONDAY
September 25, 2023

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Shri D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

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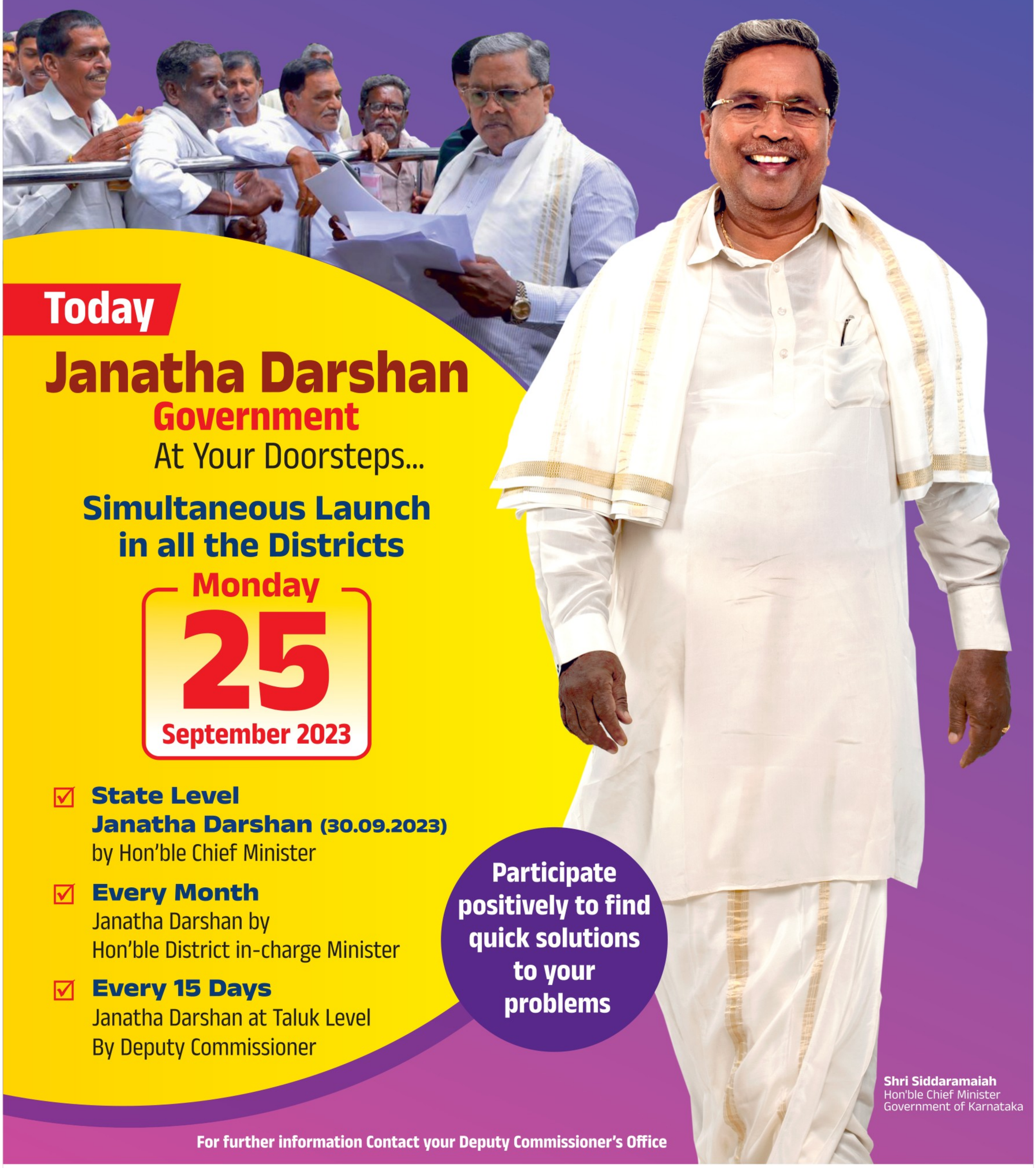

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karnataka information

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AUTEUR LEAVES THE SCENE

K.G. George, veteran filmmaker, no more

SOUTH » PAGE 9

SUCCESS STORY

ASHA workers score 95% coverage with vaccine wheel

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CONGRESS ON ECONOMY

'Ordinary households, businesses in a fix'

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MULTIPLE HURDLES

Parliamentary democracy and one election

It may work only in a presidential system

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

OFF THE MARK

India wins five medals at the Asian Games

SPORT » PAGE 17

Aadhaar unreliable in 'hot, humid' India: rating agency

Amid India's digital infra push, Moody's says the world's largest digital ID programme often denies service to users; it questions reliability of biometric technology, warns of privacy and security risks

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Global rating major Moody's Investors Service has flagged concerns about security and privacy vulnerabilities in centralised identification systems such as India's Aadhaar programme. The unique ID system often results in "service denials", and using biometric technologies in humid conditions is unreliable, it noted.

The Aadhaar system enables access to public and private services, with verification through fingerprint or iris scans and alternatives such as one-time passcodes (OTPs). However, it "faces hurdles, including the burden of establishing authorization and concerns about biometric reliability", Moody's said.

Low rating

Moody's Investors Service has cautioned against centralised digital ID systems such as Aadhaar as they pose security and privacy vulnerabilities. Here are a few warnings from the firm which offers credit ratings, research, and risk analysis:

- A single entity controlling users' ID credentials can dispose of user data for internal or third-party profiling purposes
- Aadhaar system faces hurdles, including the burden of establishing authorisation
- Reliability of biometric technologies, especially for manual labourers, in hot, humid climates is questionable
- All digital IDs can have negative social repercussions

"The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) administers Aadhaar, aiming to integrate marginalized groups and expand welfare benefits access... The system often results in service denials, and the reliability of biometric technologies, especially for manual laborers in hot, humid climates, is questionable," it stressed.

The rating agency's remarks assume significance in view of the government's adoption of Aadhaar for routing direct benefit transfers to beneficiaries of official welfare schemes, and in particular, the diktat to mandate Aadhaar-based payments for labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

Last month, the government extended its deadline for switching to a Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS) for MGNREGS beneficiaries for the fifth time, pushing it to December 31 this year.

In a report on "Decentralized finance and digital assets" issued on Saturday, Moody's acknowledged Aadhaar as "the world's largest digital ID program" that assigns unique numbers to over 1.2 billion Indian residents.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Multiple entry, exit option in higher studies may not suit India: House panel

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

After several organisations of students and teachers raised objections to the option of multiple entry and multiple exit (MEME) in the National Education Policy (NEP), the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, headed by BJP MP Vivek Thakur, has advised the Centre to hold discussions with all stakeholders.

The panel, in a report titled "Implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020 in higher education", said Indian institutions were likely to face several issues in implementing this system. The report was tabled in both Houses of Parliament during the recently concluded Special Session. The NEP proposes multi-entry and multi-exit options for the students in higher education.

The panel said while the MEME looked like a flexible system, which was being operated by Western educational institutions effectively, it might not work well in the country.

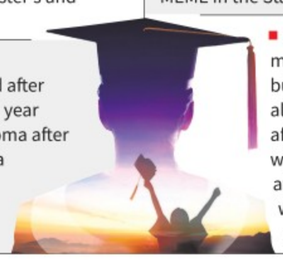
Citing high population, it said the estimated intake of students in higher education every year was high.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Not a viral MEME

The National Education Policy, 2020 promises multiple entry and multiple exit (MEME) for students, offering 'greater attention to life aspirations and greater flexibility' for students

- NEP says it removes 'rigid boundaries' and creates new possibilities for 'life-long learning'
- Students can opt for it at graduate, Master's and doctoral levels
- A certificate will be provided after completing one year of study, a diploma after two years, and a degree after a three-year programme
- An academic bank of credit will digitally store the academic credits earned by a student
- Kerala government had decided not to implement MEME in the State
- State will allow multiple entry, but exit will be allowed either after three years with a degree or after four years with an Honours degree



NEARBY

Contractors have to wait longer for bill clearance

BENGALURU
Contractors who executed civic works at the ward level under the Special Infrastructure Projects may have to wait longer for payment of pending bills. » Page 4

Sri Rama Sene members seize vehicles

BENGALURU
Tension prevailed in Doddaballapur town for some time after members of the Sri Rama Sene seized seven vehicles alleging that they were smuggling beef on Sunday morning. » Page 2

Police complaint against CM and Yathindra

MYSURU
A police complaint has been lodged against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his son Yathindra for allegedly inducing voters of Varuna constituency. » Page 6

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 5

One of many

Over 200 Ganesha idols of all sizes were taken out during the processions passing through Kamaraj Road, on the way to Ulsoor lake for immersion in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Kerala govt. to decide soon on census to revise OBC list

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The Kerala government will shortly take a call on conducting a socio-economic caste census (SECC) in the State for the purpose of updating the list of Other Backward Classes (OBC) even as it faces the prospect of contempt of court in the Supreme Court as well as the Kerala High Court for not initiating the process.

The government needs to take a policy decision on holding the SECC, State Backward Classes Minister K. Radhakrishnan said.

A decision will be taken shortly in consultation with the Chief Minister, he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Congress directs its leaders not to make 'unwarranted' remarks in public

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cracking the whip on its leaders and Ministers for the first time after the government came to power, the Congress leadership has warned them not to make any statements in public. Sending a message that such remarks were "unwarranted and unacceptable," party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal has directed leaders and Ministers not to comment on "unwanted rumours" on the post of Chief Minister and the number of Deputy Chief Minister posts.

Over the last four months, Congress factionalism has come to the fore on more than one occasion, embarrassing the party. In the recent past, while those who missed the Cabinet berths and become disgruntled have embarrassed the government with their statements, senior leader B.K. Hariprasad recently launched a tirade against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, without naming him.

Mr. Venugopal's direction comes in the light of the recent demand for more Deputy Chief Minister posts, based on caste, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

While Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna first raised the issue publicly, which was seen more as an attempt to reduce the influence of Deputy Chief Minister D.K Shivakumar, others, including Home Minister G. Parameshwara and Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, added to Mr. Rajanna's comments.

In a communication, Mr. Venugopal said: "The success of the welfare measures has made the BJP and other regional parties jittery and uncomfortable. In the usual tactic of diversion and manipulation, they are now using a section of the media to fuel wholly unwarranted rumours with regard to the post of Chief Minister and number of Deputy Chief Ministers. We have noted with concern that certain Congress leaders and Ministers have also chosen to comment upon these rumours by falling prey to the propaganda of the BJP and other regional outfits."

CONTTINUED ON » PAGE 4

Support pours in for bandh call in Bengaluru tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

More support poured in for the Bengaluru bandh called by the Karnataka Jala Samrkashana Samiti on September 26, with several organisations announcing their decision to back it after a meeting on Sunday.

The bandh is expected to disrupt life in the city on Tuesday, even as a faction of activists, led by Vatal Nagaraj, have called for a Statewide bandh on September 29.

It was earlier decided that the protest rally would commence from Town Hall at 11 a.m. and culminate at Mysore Bank circle, following police instructions, but now members are thinking about ending the rally at Freedom Park. The decision is expected to be made on Monday.

Activists, including Vatal Nagaraj, protesting near Mysore Bank Circle in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKAR JAIN

While the Karnataka Associated Management of Schools (KAMS) had said that it was left to the discretion of the schools to declare a holiday on Tuesday, the Recognised Unaided Private School Association (RUPSA) announced on Sunday that all private schools coming under the association would be closed on the bandh day.

Lokesh Talikote, president, RUPSA, said that students who would be writing examinations on the day would sport a black ribbon to extend their support to the bandh.

Members of IT Kannadigara Balaga, a group of over 3,500 IT employees, will take out a bike rally on Tuesday and will not go to work in support of the bandh, said Shivanand, president of the association.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

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Ground survey

As the ICC ODI World Cup is all set to be held in India from October 5 to November 19, an in-depth look at the venues which will host the cricketing extravaganza; the first in the series is the Narendra Modi Stadium which will host the opening fixture as well as the summit clash

VIJAY SONEJI

Shayan Acharya

Ahead of the 2023 ODI World Cup, the Narendra Modi Stadium is preparing to host high-profile games, including India vs Pakistan. Despite previously hosting IPL finals and bilateral fixtures, hosting an ICC event presents a different challenge.

The stadium has state-of-the-art facilities, modern dressing rooms, and plush hospitality areas. The Gujarat Cricket Association officials are working to address recommendations made by the ICC and the BCCI before handing over the venue to the tournament organizing committee on September 15. Although the stadium faced concerns over a wet outfield during the IPL final, the groundsmen have worked hard to ensure everything is in perfect shape for the upcoming World Cup.

GCA secretary Anil Patel says, "The association is working on every aspect to ensure things are in perfect shape..."

When the venue was visited in the second week of August, the square looked ready, with the groundsmen giving some 'finishing touches'.

If you are planning to watch a game at the Narendra Modi Stadium during the World Cup, here's all you need to know...

Capacity: On paper, the stadium has a capacity of 1,32,000. But to accommodate sight-screens on both ends and extend the dressing room arena while keeping the international protocols in mind, some seats remain out of bounds.

According to GCA officials, around 1,20,000 tickets are kept for fans and guests, with about 10-15 per cent earmarked for the BCCI, the ICC, and its affiliates. Nearly 1,00,000 tickets go on sale through the online platforms or over the counter. Several kiosks will be set up in the stadium premises leading up to the tournament where spectators can collect physical tickets.

The hospitality boxes: While fans can enjoy the proceedings from the stands, there is a seating capacity of 25 each in the 76 corporate boxes, which are usually reserved for guests and dignitaries.

On the third floor, there is a luxurious president's box, which is exclusively reserved for the guests of the BCCI, GCA, and ICC. It allows the spectators to watch the game from the centre wicket, and the state association promises top-notch hospitality. There are about 10-12 washrooms on the floor, with facilities for men, women, and the specially abled.

On the walls of the corporate box, there are pictures of Prime Minister Narednra Modi, who was earlier the president of the GCA; union home minister Amit Shah; and the current secretary, Jay Shah. There are also pictures featuring former BCCI chief and former India captain Sourav Ganguly and a few other cricketers.

Practice facilities: Apart from the regular practice arena, there are two grounds inside the premises, which will

be used by teams for training purposes. Both the grounds have hosted domestic fixtures, and even during the IPL, the teams had their practice sessions here.

Pitches: It's a sand-based wicket. There are 11 strips; five are made of local black soil, while the other five are a combination of Mumbai red soil, Murrum yellow soil, and local black soil. The other one is made of 75 per cent Mumbai red soil and 25 per cent of Odisha black soil.

Since the tournament will be held in October and November, dew could be a factor, but the groundsmen are well equipped to counter the dew with moisture balancing and using anti-dew sprays on the outfield.

During the IPL, the venue had batting-friendly surfaces, and the ground staff indicated that it's going to be a similar situation in the World Cup as well. While the surface could favour the batters, with a bit of aid to the seamers, the projected score could hover around 280 and 290.

Drainage and outfield: The stadium has a sand-based outfield with a sub-soil drainage system. According to GCA secretary Anil Patel, "the pre-season renovation has been done soon after the IPL, and the groundsmen are working on the last leg before formally handing over the ground to the organising committee.

Entry points: There are four gates. While Gates No. 1 and 2 are for the general public, there are several walkways leading to the blocks. Even though Gate No. 1 is located on the main road, traffic is usually diverted on match days to ensure smooth entry to the stadium. However, the road approaching Gate No. 2, which is located next to the GCA Club House, is slightly narrow and may lead to congestion.

The Motera metro station is about 200 metres from Gate 2 and is within walking distance. But during the IPL final, with a packed crowd, entry into the stadium was chaotic from both the gates, and it took hours for the fans to finally get in.

The GCA, however, hopes that things will be smoother with adequate security and more volunteers deputed to oversee the process. Like every other time, Gate No. 3 will be used for VIP movements and vendors, whereas Gate No. 4 is restricted to players and VIP dignitaries.

As the GCA officials point out, "there are 18 parking zones for two-wheelers and four-wheelers within a radius of 1 km. In case one finds parking at a further corner, the GCA plans to organise a shuttle service that would pick up the spectators and drop them off at the venue.'

Accessibility and challenges: From the entrance to the stands, it is a long walk. And for big-ticket games like India vs. Pakistan, things could get challenging for the fans to find their way to the respective blocks and zones amid tight security.

But GCA seems to have found a way to address the issue. During the IPL, the association introduced a golf cart service for easy accessibility to the stands, and it will continue with that during the World Cup as well. There are special ramps for the differently-abled, and the GCA will tie up with the ticketing partner and appoint volunteers who will guide those spectators to their seats.

According to Patel, volunteers will also be deputed to make sure that the spectators have no problems locating their respective seat zones. Indicators will also be put up in different areas for easy navigation. "Gate 1 and Gate 2 straightaway lead to the ramps, but we will put up a few additional signs for spectators coming from different parts of the world so that they find it easy to reach their respective zones," Patel says. "In case anyone needs special attention, they need to inform us while booking the tickets, and we will depute special volunteers to take care of them. We did a similar thing during the IPL as well," he adds.

Emergency set-up: There's round-the-clock ambulance service on the stadium premises. Ahead of the tournament, eight to 10 medical kiosks will be set up across the stadium for spectators. In case anyone needs medical attention, there will be a primary health centre at the Sports Complex for basic treatment. "We have a six-bed semi-hospital for fans and two-bed for the players and guests. During the IPL, someone suffered a heat stroke and needed medical attention. He was taken to the health centre before being shifted to the hospital," a GCA official says.

Dressing rooms: There are four dressing rooms, two on each side. The dressing rooms are spacious and feature pictures of India's 1983 World Cup and 2011 World Cup wins. There is a viewing gallery from which the players and the support staff can follow the proceedings before heading to the dugout.

There are three physio rooms on each side of the dressing rooms, along with two players arena on each side. There is also a spacious lunch room and briefing room for home and away teams. The dressing rooms are well maintained with state-of-the-art facilities, including a gym. However, it's a long walk from the dugout to the dressing room. Currently, one has to take 98 steps to reach the dressing room, and factoring in the time limit, the GCA plans to reduce the number of steps to make things easy for the players as they walk in or walk out of the ground.

Restrooms: There are 150 restrooms in the stadium, of which 130 are in use for spectators. It has facilities for both men and women, as well as for the differently abled. There are more than 80 lavatories as well. "There is proper signage for the differently-abled, and the facilities are upgraded to ensure that they don't have any problems," Patel says.

Water: There's a centralised Reverse Osmosis (RO) facility in the stadium. The BCCI plans to tie up with the official 'pouring partner' of the tournament to provide free drinking water for all the spectators.

Solar panel: The stadium incorporates renewable energy sources, water conservation methods, and waste management systems. So far, only the club house has solar panels, but in the future, the GCA is open to using solar panels in the entire stadium. LED lights are used throughout the premises.

Areas that need attention: During its inspection recently, the ICC delegation sought an expanded media centre to accommodate media personnel travelling from across the globe. While currently the press box can accommodate about 150-200 people, the GCA is already getting an overflow area ready that can accommodate more people, following the ICC guidelines.

According to Patel, efforts are on to ensure 'uninterrupted wi-fi service' for media personnel. There will also be a separate broadcasting lounge for the commentators and the television and digital crew.

The GCA also needs to set up more ticket counters to avoid rush hour. Ahead of the IPL final, there were long queues near the main gate for the physical collection of tickets, leading to inconvenience for the spectators.

They had to wait for hours braving extreme weather conditions, and keeping that in mind, the state association plans to set up more ticket kiosks to make things easy for the fans.

Hasaranga likely to miss World Cup

Sri Lankan spin-bowling all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga is likely to miss out on the ICC Cricket World Cup in India starting on October 5, after sustaining a Grade 3 hamstring strain. According to reports, he may even need surgery to fully heal from the injury.

Meanwhile, fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera and spinner Maheesh Theekshana are still recovering from injuries. However, there is a better chance that those two will play a part in the World Cup.

GAME TIME

Test your knowledge on the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

QUESTION 1
Which two World Cup editions happened to begin on Valentine's Day?

QUESTION 2
Who scored six fours in an over against an Australian left-arm fast bowler in a World Cup match in Sydney?

QUESTION 3
What milestone did Sachin Tendulkar breach in the only World Cup match that India lost in the 2011 title-winning campaign?

QUESTION 4
Complete the following sequence keeping in mind Chetan Sharma and Mohammed Shami. Ken Rutherford, Ian Smith, Ewen Chatfield; Mohammad Nabi, Aftab Alam, ...?

QUESTION 5
In which year did a country first win the World Cup as hosts?

QUESTION 6
Which is the only country to host World Cup finals in two different cities?

QUESTION 7
Which is the only father-son duo to have won the World Cup?

QUESTION 8
Who is the only captain to lose the World Cup Final as well as win the Player of the tournament award in the same year?

QUESTION 9
Who is the only person to have played in a World Cup Final as well as officiated in another summit clash?

10. Identify this cricketer.
FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

THE ANSWERS

1. 1996 & 2015. 2. Tillakaratne Dilshan. 3. 99th international century. 4. Mujeeb Ur Rahman. 5. 2011. 6. India. 7. Geoff Marsh & Mitchell Marsh. 8. Kane Williamson. 9. Kumar Dharmasena. 10. William Porterfield.

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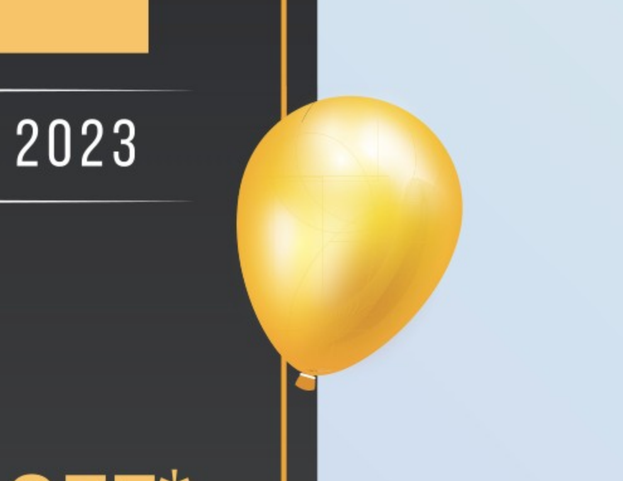

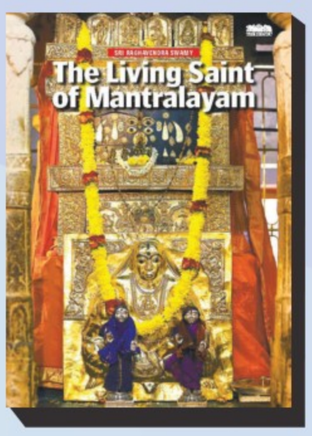

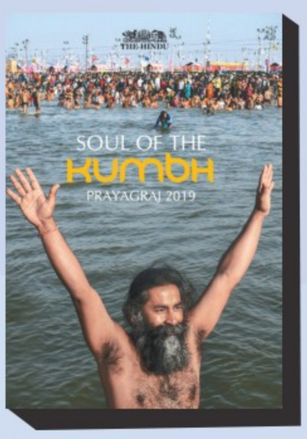

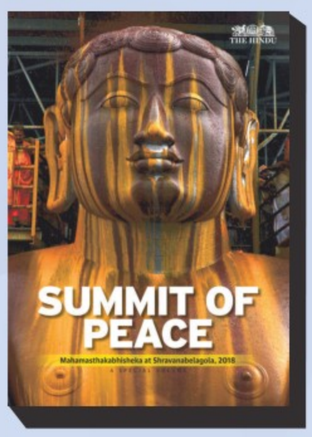

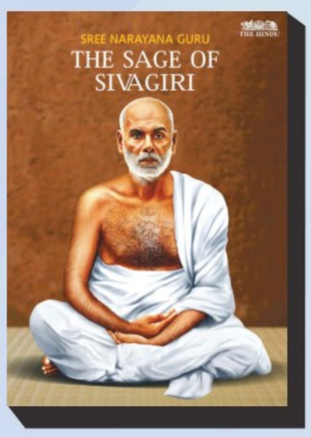

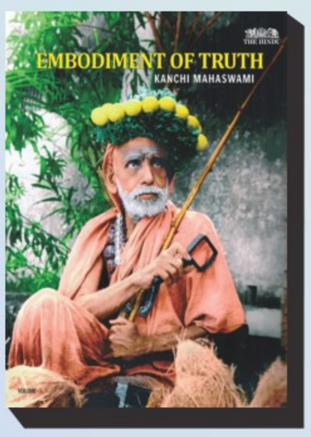

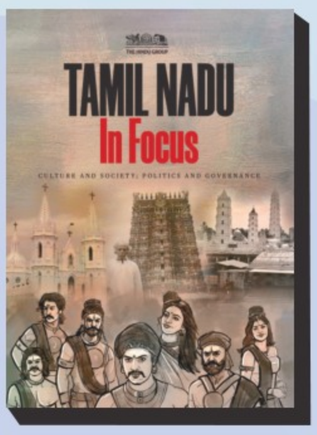

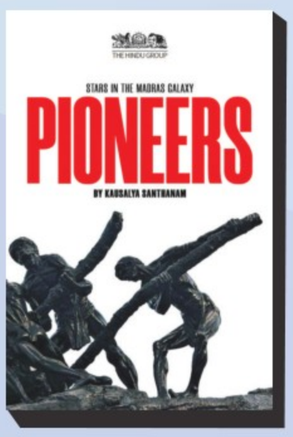

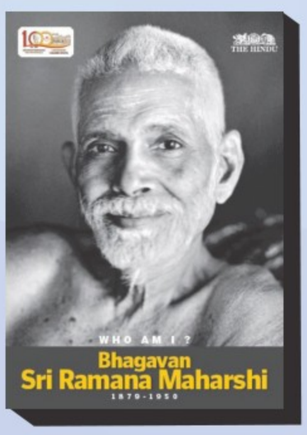

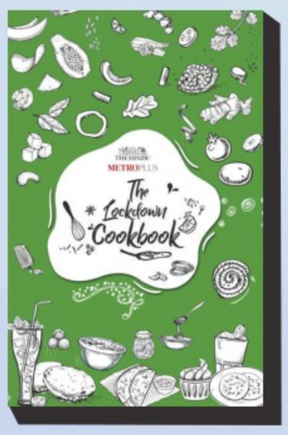

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Many employees now being asked to work from office

An increasing number of companies want their workforce to be seen often at the workplace. With some flexibility built into the new arrangement, the challenge to this move is feeble, if at all

Liffy Thomas
BENGALURU

After the pandemic, many companies slowly scaled up the number of days they wanted their employees at the physical office. FILE PHOTO

An increasing number of organisations now want employees to work more out of office than home. Towards this end, perks attached to work from home are being withdrawn, one by one, slowly but surely.

JPMorgan Chase & Co has called on its senior leaders to set an example for others by working from office five days a week. Goldman Sachs has been hammering down the message that it wants its workforce to show up at office all working days. Fynd resumed the five-day office week early this year.

Rahul Jain, CFO and CHRO, NTT DATA Payment Services India, says exceptions are also made in hybrid mandates. "During the recent rains in Mumbai, we allowed employees to work from home which is over and above the number of days earmarked for work from home," says Mr. Jain.

Post pandemic

After the pandemic, the fin-tech company slowly scaled up the number of days it wanted its employees at the physical office. It was one day in a week at the outset. Now, it is four days in the physical office every week.

"Initially, we had to force employees to come to the office, and insisting that our IT staff do so was a huge challenge. There was attrition due to this," says Mr. Jain. The dust seems to have settled now. The feedback system shows the workforce has settled back into the physical office format. The talent acquisition team takes great pains to impress upon prospective employees the company's work arrangement.

"In the initial months, in the first round of the interview, we even told prospective joinees that all employees have to work five days a week from the office. Later, we would extend to them the option of working from home one day in a week," says Mr. Jain.

Are employees, especially in the IT and ITeS sectors, prepared for this change after working remotely for more than two years?

SunTec Business Solution, a 30-year-old company with offices in Bengaluru, Kochi, Chennai, and Thiruvananthapuram, presents data that suggests its transition to office programme has been a success. It asks its employees to report at the office three to four days a week depending on the location.

As per a communication from the company, 68% of the workforce reported to office in the first week of June 2023 when it mandated that its workforce get back to the physical office. Now, the company claims full attendance.

Feedback mechanism

A real time feedback mechanism to address concerns; consistent communication and empathy are what they believe got the employees to help implement the mandate.

G. Vijaya Raghavan, member of the board, SunTech Group, says they do not call their work model hybrid. They would rather use the epithet "flexible" to define it. For instance, an employee gets to work from anywhere four days in a month. "One can take those four days on the trot, which helps many professionals plan other things," he says.

"Empowerment at various levels in the organisation, and not just work by HR, is how we were able to bring employees to work-from-office without seeing any attrition," says Mr. Raghavan.

However, a few professionals that *The Hindu* spoke to say strict in-office dates and hours may not actually provide them with the flexibility they are supposedly given.

ORRCA requests firms to run shuttle bus service from metro stations

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Feeder services from Baiyappanahalli till 5 km, run by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation, are being utilised by up to 8,000 passengers every day. FILE PHOTO

The Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA) has requested companies and tech parks along the Outer Ring Road (ORR) in Bengaluru to offer shuttle services for their employees to the nearest metro station as the Byappanahalli-K.R. Pura Namma Metro link is likely to become operational in the first week of October.

"To promote the use of public transport and given the upcoming metro connectivity near the Outer Ring Road, companies can facilitate their employees by offering shuttle services. Several companies are already providing shuttle services from Byappanahalli, and with the metro extending to KR Pura, this will greatly benefit IT employees working along the ORR," Ramesh V.T., general secretary, ORRCA.

> To promote the use of public transport and given the upcoming metro connectivity near the Outer Ring Road, companies can facilitate their employees by offering shuttle services
>
> **RAMESH V.T.**
> general secretary, ORRCA

"At ORRCA we are dedicated to finding practical solutions to reduce traffic congestion and improve commuting experiences for IT park employees along the ORR. Our primary objective is to work closely with BMTC, BMRCL, BBMP, and BTP to implement Feeder and Dedicated Bus services that seamlessly connect IT companies and tech parks to the nearest metro station on the Purple Line," he added.

On September 21, the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) completed the inspection of the Baiyappanahalli-K.R. Pura section (2 km). In a statement earlier Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), said, "The statutory safety inspection of the newly constructed line between Baiyappanahalli and Krishnarajapura metro stations was successfully completed."

"Once this connection is established, K.R. Puram metro station will be a vital link for ORR commuters, making public transportation even more accessible. We are exploring various models to provide dedicated bus services to tech parks and IT companies on ORR," Krishna Kumar Gowda, consultant, ORRCA said.

Prior to the announcement of dates for Karnataka Assembly elections, BMRCL had opened the metro line from K.R. Pura to Whitefield, covering a distance of 13.71 km. The line has 12 stations. However, a stretch of close to 2 km between Baiyappanahalli and K.R. Pura could not be opened due to pending work.

Owing to the missing link, metro passengers are presently forced to use feeder service for a distance of 5 km to reach K.R. Puram after getting down at Baiyappanahalli. Feeder services run by the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) are being utilised by up to 8,000 passengers every day.

After both the Baiyappanahalli-K.R. Pura and Kengeri-Challaghatta sections are opened to the public, the entire 44-km Purple Line, spanning from Whitefield to Challaghatta, will be fully operational.

Sri Rama Sene members seize vehicles, alleging beef transport

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tension prevailed in Doddaballapur town near Bengaluru for some time after members of the Sri Rama Sene seized seven vehicles alleging that they were smuggling beef and later set fire to one of the vehicles on Sunday morning.

The members intercepted the vehicles coming from Hindupur to Bengaluru at the toll gate. They then set fire to one of the vehicles when the occupants tried to resist the protesters.

The police, along with Fire and Emergency Services personnel, rushed to the spot, doused the blaze and brought the situation under control.

16 arrested

The Doddaballpur Town police have arrested 16 people belonging to the Hindutva outfit for allegedly assaulting one of the transporters and setting fire to the vehicle.

The police have seized the vehicle the accused used and 19 mobile phones, including five phones which they had allegedly robbed from the group after attacking them.

The police have also arrested six people for allegedly transporting beef illegally from Hindupur, Andhra Pradesh.

The police have also booked a case against a group for recording the video of the vehicle burning and uploading it on social media.

Bribery case: Railway official sentenced to three years in prison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The special court for CBI cases on Friday convicted an office superintendent of South Western Railway, Mysuru division, and sentenced him to three years in prison for demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹25,000 from a candidate to issue an appointment letter.

Judge H.A. Mohan also directed the convict, L.K. Srikanth, to pay a fine of ₹3 lakh for an offence punishable under section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act.

Srikanth, who had been appointed under compassionate grounds, had allegedly demanded a bribe of ₹3 lakh from Vinod Kumar who had got the job as a technician, also on compassionate grounds, after the death of his mother while on duty in August 2020.

After negotiation, Srikanth brought down the amount to ₹1 lakh and demanded an advance of ₹25,000 to issue the order. Unable to pay the bribe, Mr. Vinod approached the CBI with the help of his relative and filed a complaint.

Based on the complaint, a team laid a trap and arrested Srikanth while he was accepting the bribe near a nursing home in Mysuru, a kilometre away from his office. The entire incident was captured on CCTV camera installed nearby and proved an important piece of evidence for the CBI investigation.

K.S. Hema, special public prosecutor, appeared before the CBI and argued the case.

Two booked for cheating people in the name of Sudha Murty

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused, according to the complainant, were selling tickets for a programme in the U.S. claiming that Sudha Murty was the chief guest

The Jayanagar police are on the lookout for two women who, posing as office assistants of author and chairperson of the Infosys Foundation Sudha Murty, were selling tickets in USD for a programme claiming that Ms. Murty was the chief guest.

Based on the complaint filed by Mamata Sanjay, executive secretary of Sudha Murty, the Jayanagar police charged the two accused, identified as Lavanya, and Shruthi, charging them under the IT Act and under cheating and impersonation.

The accused, according to the complainant, posing as members of Kannada Koota of Northern California, invited Ms. Murty to the 50th anniversary programme to be held in California. Ms. Murthy declined, after which the accused in April continued to advertise on social media with the photograph of Ms. Murty saying she was going to be the chief guest.

When Ms. Murty's office contacted the organiser, the accused Lavanya said she had confirmed her presence through a call in the first week of August.

Misrepresenting facts

Lavanya, according to the complainant, is not only misrepresenting the facts but also tarnishing the image of Ms. Murty claiming to be the office staff of Ms. Murty's trust.

Further inquiries revealed that the accused had also advertised another programme called "Meet & Greet with Dr. Sudha Murthy" in the U.S. and sold tickets at $40 in collusion with Shruthi.

This is to cheat gullible people and make money misusing the name of Ms. Murty, the complainant said, seeking legal action.

READER'S MAIL

Complete bridge work soon

Sir, – The Tank Bund Road between Binny Mill junction and Sirsi Circle has been blocked for traffic for more than a month now in view of the ongoing reconstruction of a drain bridge near the ETA Mall. Due to this, traffic between Magadi Road and Mysuru Road is diverted onto the already congested TCM Royan Road. From here, vehicles have to cross a single-lane residential street to converge with traffic on Cottonpet Main Road, another clogged thoroughfare. The detoured roads are too narrow to accommodate the extra load of the large number of vehicles that would otherwise use Tank Bund Road. The BBMP should ensure that the bridge work on Tank Bund Road is completed on a war footing because driving on the diverted route has become a nightmare and commuters cannot tolerate the inconvenience for a prolonged period.

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

Readers can write to letters.bangalore @thehindu.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka, constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, vide its letter No. SEIAA 94 CON 2023 dated: 22-06-2023 has accorded Environmental Clearance to **M/s. APG Environment Homes Private Ltd** for construction of Residential Apartment With Club House at Sy. No. 3/3 (Old Sy. No. 3/1A1 and 3/1A1a), Whitefield Village, K R Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District. as per applicable provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and amended thereafter.

Copy of the Clearance letter is available with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen on the website of the SEIAA, Karnataka at **http://seiaa.karnataka.gov.in/, http://seiaa.kar.nic.in & http://environmentclearance.nic.in.**

This Public Notice is issued in compliance with the conditions laid down in the above Environmental Clearance.

EDUCATION HUB — A Business Initiative

'Page to Stage', an inter-collegiate competition organised by Christ Junior College

Recently to celebrate the spirit of theatre, the Department of English at Christ Junior College organised 'Page to Stage', an inter-collegiate competition. Twelve teams participated and did justice to the stage by showcasing their thoughtful and witty scripts in a memorable manner. The judges for the function were Ms Veena Devi and Mr Abhinav Jaison, both avid lovers of theatre. The amalgamation of the drama and dance, the lights and music, the costumes and props, is the perfect formula to a captivating performance. These elements acted in harmony in the performance by the winners, the play 'The Voter' enacted by 'RNS Pre University College' to applaud their efforts, the team received a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 . St. Joseph's Indian Composite College with their performance of ' A Sunny Morning' were placed second and Christ PU College Residential's adaptation of 'Money Madness' won them the third place. This approach to a monotonous textbook, helps the students remember a chapter and its different perspectives in a fun and delightful way. While doing so, it also exposes the students to the world of theatrics and widens their skill set.

CMR University Welcomes the Class of 2023-24 B.Tech and B.Arch Aspirants with Groundbreaking Academic Initiatives

On the occasion of Engineer's Day, CMR University extended the Inaugural and Orientation function with a warm welcome to the engineering and architecture aspirants of the class of AY 2023-24, bringing in a fresh wave of 720+ students eager to embark on a transformative journey of knowledge and growth. Dr. KC Ramamurthy (IPS - Retd.), Chairman at CMR Group of Institutions and former MP (Rajya Sabha), Dr. N, Ranganath was the chief Guest at the occasion while Dr. Sabitha Ramamurthy, Chancellor at CMR University presided over the event. CMRU also held a Project Showcase with cash prize awards for winners. CMR university encourages students and their esteemed parents to attend the Inaugural and Orientation Programs, providing them with valuable insights into the academic curriculum and campus life.

Leadership Training Program at SDM University, Dharwad

SDM University organizes a Two-day Leadership Training Program for the selected students of SDM University in Association with M R Pai Foundation, Mumbai. The idea of both SDM University and M R Pai Foundation is to train and mold today's young students to tomorrow's great Leaders The Chief Guest, Dr Niranjan Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. SK Joshi, Pro Vice Chancellor (Academics), Dr Kiran Hegde, Medical Superintendent and two eminent Management Trainers from Mumbai, Mr Vivek Patki and Mr Sachin Kamath inaugurated the program by lighting the Lamp. Mr Vivek Patki and Mr Sachin Kamath briefed about the objective of the Leadership Training and vision of M R Pai Foundation. Mr Babanna Shettigar, Chief Public Relations Officer, SDM University welcomed the Guests and introduced the Speakers.

2-Day National Conference on Scientific Writing in National Institute of Unani Medicine

The Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, NIUM in Bengaluru organized a two-day National Conference on Scientific Writing. The primary objective of this program was to enhance the capacity of Unani teachers to effectively communicate the research findings. At present, while the principles and ideas of research have expanded a lot, the method of their dissemination has also developed. Hence to equip the Unani teachers with the necessary skills to proficiently convey the research findings, this programme was organized. Selected Unani teachers from different parts of the country participated in this conference. A team of experts from leading Indian institutions like the National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai, ICMR, New Delhi, NIMHANS, Bengaluru, and PGIMER Chandigarh imparted training in scientific writing to Unani teachers.

Kristu Jayanti College - Silver Jubilee celebration

Recently Kristu Jayanti announced its Silver Jubilee celebrations - a quarter century of academic excellence. Shri KJ George, Minister for Energy, Government of Karnataka, was the chief guest, Prof Niranjana Vanalli, Vice Chancellor, Bangalore North University was the guest of honour on the occasion. "Youth are the bright future of this country. The country's responsibility lies on the shoulders of youth and the next generation is the only hope for the nation", pointed out Shri KJ George. He also stressed on the importance of women empowerment. The pioneers of the Kristu Jayanti College, Fr. Josekutty Padinjarepeedika, Fr. Jose Parekkattil, Fr. Issac Poochamkulam, Fr. Sebastian Elanjickal, Fr. James Narithookil, Fr. Thomas Aykkara and Fr. Thomas Kadankavil were felicitated. On the occasion of Silver Jubilee, a logo was unveiled with the theme 'Empowering visions, Enriching lives'. Embarking on this remarkable journey of knowledge, growth, and achievement KJC Silver Jubilee initiatives were also announced.

Blood Donation Camp at Kristu Jayanti College Autonomous

The Jayantian Extension Services of Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, Bengaluru, in collaboration with BMST Blood Bank, NIMHANS Blood Bank, LIONS Blood Bank, Sanjeevini Blood Bank, HEMOCARE Blood Bank, and Karnataka Red Cross Blood Bank, conducted a Blood Donation Camp in Humanities Block, Ground floor. This remarkable event witnessed an incredible display of solidarity, with students, administrative staff and faculty members wholeheartedly donated 1083 units of blood. Fr. Dr. Augustine George, Principal, Fr. Jais V Thomas, Director of Jayantian Extension Services, Financial Administrator, appreciated all participants This event's conclusion was marked by a thoughtful contemplation of the profound sentiment: "The act of donating blood is the act of donating life itself." It served as a reminder that even small actions can have a significant impact on the lives of others and was a testament to the college's commitment to community service.

The story of how scientists found that our ancestors almost went extinct

Genome sequencing has helped researchers uncover population bottlenecks, founder events, and the age of genetic diseases in the history of human evolution and migration. Recently, ancient DNA revealed a 'super-bottleneck' in human evolution 900 millennia ago, which could have shaped humanity in myriad ways

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

Humans had a very close shave during evolution and were kept alive by the ingenuity of a few. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The human population on the earth exceeded eight billion people in November 2022, underscoring our species' status as the dominant force on our planet, with our unparalleled cognitive abilities and technological prowess and ability to harness, engineer, and reshape the environment around us.

This dominance has also resulted in some catastrophic outcomes as we have expanded our footprint, resulting in habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change, pushing a number of species to the brink of extinction. It is hard to imagine that we as a species, just as other animals and plants, could have also been pushed to the brink of extinction at multiple points in the entire history of evolution.

Think about a scenario where the whole human species is represented by a few members only, living in a very hostile natural environment where everyday existence is at the mercy of natural forces. This small group, in addition to its extraordinary resilience and creative survival tactics, would have had the enormous responsibility of keeping the entire human species alive. It's quite possible that our ancestors could have experienced many such species-defining moments on their path to dominating the world as we know it today.

Researchers have been interested in understanding the evolution, and history of the human species and genome sequences have proved to be of tremendous help. Together with evidence such as fossils, researchers have been able to piece together parts of human evolution and history in astonishing detail. However, ancient DNA is limited by the timeline: it can offer only recent insights into human evolution; DNA older than that is seldom preserved intact.

Molecular clock

Our ability to sequence human genomes so quickly and computational tools to analyse the data has allowed us a near-pristine view of the past. This is because genome sequences offer a sort of a snapshot of the molecular clock of human evolution. The genome accumulates genetic variations at a constant rate; the recombination and exchange of genetic material also occur at the time of generation of gametes (sperm and ovum).

There have also been insights from the sequences of the mitochondria and the Y chromosome, which are passed on matrilineally and patrilineally, respectively.

Taken together, scientists have developed several computational approaches to piece together how humans evolved, and have been able to extend them to timescales far beyond those afforded by ancient DNA. They have thus been able to identify population bottlenecks and founder events as well as determine the age of many genetic diseases.

For example, in a March 2018 paper, researchers concluded by studying genome sequences from present-day populations that sickle cell anaemia arose around 7,300 years ago.

Bottlenecks and founders

Scientists have also uncovered population bottlenecks in human history. A bottleneck is when a population becomes constricted to a small number of individuals. When they start a new population, their genomic contributions become more pronounced in that sub-population, and are further amplified in subsequent generations, leading to the founder effect.

In the context of genomic sequences, this would manifest as more shared genetic material between individuals of the population. Founder effects arise from population bottlenecks and also due to other factors, including migration, geographic isolation, and even cultural and marriage practices, such as endogamy and consanguinity.

From a biomedical perspective, founder effects and populations could also confer specific diseases and traits, common and shared between members, at a higher frequency than their prevalence in the general population.

The Ashkenazi Jews are one of the most well-studied founder populations, with a bottleneck event suggesting that a small group of around a thousand-odd individuals gave rise to the modern population. So these individuals have a greater frequency of some genetic diseases due to the founder effect.

> We as a species, just as other animals and plants, could have also been pushed to the brink of extinction at multiple points in the entire history of evolution

Similarly, unique matrimonial practices in India have created around 4,000 endogamous groups, many of whom have strong founder effects. Researchers at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology analysed genomic data for Indian populations. In a paper in *Nature Genetics*, they suggested that many endogamous populations have shared stretches of genomes - more often than do the Ashkenazi Jews - after years of inbreeding.

Almost extinct

In a recent paper in *Science*, researchers from China used a new computational technique to analyse about 3,000 present-day human genomes from 10 African and 40 non-African populations. They concluded that the modern human population likely originated only from about 1,200 founding ancestors.

The finding challenges previous estimates that predicted this number to be about 100,000. The scientists also found that our ancestors went through this bottleneck about 900,000 years ago and that the drastic reduction lasted for over 100,000 years.

To compare, modern humans are only around 300,000 years old, meaning our early hominid ancestors were almost extinct for a long time.

This super-bottleneck in human evolution coincided with drastic changes in climate, including prolonged periods of glaciation and droughts that could have killed off many other species, diminishing food sources for our ancestors. The recovery of the human population from the super-bottleneck could have been due to development of more hospitable environmental conditions, the control of fire, and, eventually, some form of agriculture practice. The small number of breeding individuals over a long time would also have had severe consequences for the genetic diversity of humans, and likely shaped humanity in ways we do not yet know.

Delving into the secrets of our ancestors using genomic analysis is like peering through a time-travelling telescope, discovering profound insights into the future of our species. By decoding the genetic blueprints of our forebears, we gain a deeper understanding of the genetic innovations that allowed us to become the dominant species on the earth.

This is also a road map for what lies ahead: as we confront challenges such as climate change and infectious diseases, the lessons from our ancestors' survival can become invaluable.

(The authors are senior consultants at the Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation.)

THE GIST

With evidence such as fossils, researchers have been able to piece together parts of human evolution and history in astonishing detail. However, ancient DNA can offer only recent insights into human evolution; DNA older than that is seldom preserved intact

In a March 2018 paper, researchers concluded by studying genome sequences from present-day populations that sickle cell anaemia arose around 7,300 years ago

Ashkenazi Jews are one of the most well-studied founder populations, with a bottleneck event suggesting that a small group of around a thousand-odd individuals gave rise to the modern population. So these individuals have a greater frequency of some genetic diseases due to the founder effect

BIG SHOT

A Tata Steel plant in Ijmuiden, Netherlands. People living close to Tata Steel's Dutch steelworks have a life expectancy 2.5 months lower than the average for the Netherlands due to the plant's emissions, the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment said on Friday. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Galactic tides: Pushing and pulling the heavens

Arkatapa Basu

Just as the earth's oceans at their shores, the universe's galaxies also experience tides, but on a much larger scale. Galactic tides are caused by gravitational forces within a galaxy, arising in the interactions between celestial objects such as stars and gas clouds. These tidal forces influence various aspects of a galaxy's evolution. They can reshape a galaxy structure by creating tidal tails and bridges, promoting star formation, and disrupting smaller star systems. Over aeons, galactic tides also disrupt the orbits of stars, leading to long-term changes in galactic structure. Galactic tides also have a say in the ways in which proximate galaxies do and don't interact.

In fact, researchers have observed the closest galaxy to the Milky Way, the colossal Andromeda, and found that tidal streams near its edges could be signatures of dwarf galaxies that were later devoured. The Andromeda galaxy is heading towards the Milky Way at 110 km/s and will collide in four billion years.

Galactic tides also affect the supermassive black holes at galaxy centres, leading to events that change the ways in which these cosmic beasts interact with nearby stars. In astronomy, understanding galactic tides is crucial if we are to truly understand the complex dynamics and evolution of galaxies over cosmological time.

The Milky Way. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

More than 600 NCC cadets attending All-India Vayu Sainik Camp

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The All-India Vayu Sainik Camp 2023 of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) is being hosted in Bengaluru.

NCC Directorate Karnataka and Goa is conducting the camp, which began on September 23, till October 4.

"Being the apex camp for Air Wing NCC, this camp witnesses cadets from all over the country compete against each other in various disciplines that include microlight flying, aeromodelling, drill, and firing. This camp is an annual event wherein all aspects of Air Wing NCC training are assessed by officers from the Directorate-General NCC," stated the Ministry of Defence.

The cream of the Air Wing NCC comprising 608 cadets from 16 directorates get a chance to be a part of this prestigious event. The cadets make it here after a gruelling selection process and in the process, they get a chance to showcase their capabilities and give wings to their aviation dreams.

Since 2015, this event has been hosted by the NCC Directorate Rajasthan, however, this year the NCC Directorate Karnataka & Goa has been entrusted with this responsibility. The camp is being housed in Air Force Station Jalahalli, with the competitions being conducted in various dispersed locations

NCC cadets at the camp which will be on till October 4 in Bengaluru.

in Bengaluru. "It is pertinent to note that the cadets aren't here just to compete against each other, for them it is a life-changing experience. Keynote speakers from the armed forces will be addressing the cadets on military leadership, while assessors from the Services Selection Board will be introducing them to the gruelling selection process.

The Centre for Leadership & Behavioural Studies, a service training institute of the Indian Air Force, will be imparting training on leadership skills to the cadets," the Ministry added.

As a pilot project, cadets would be exposed to drone training and also be given an air experience sortie on Zen Air microlight aircraft and an educational tour to aerospace-related organisations will mark the culmination of the camp.

Apart from assessing the proficiency of training in the NCC, this camp will serve as a platform for motivating the cadets to join the Indian Air Force.

Garment workers' convention seeks revoking amendments made to Factories Act

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Garment workers' convention held on Sunday in the city jointly organised by Munnade, Sadhana, and Samruddhi at Devraj Urs Bhavan called for the revoking of the Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 2023.

Former Minister, P.G.R. Sindhia who inaugurated the event emphasised the need for the government to provide adequate facilities to garment workers acknowledging their significant contribution to the economy.

Women in industry

He urged the Chief Minister

P.G.R. Sindhia urged the CM to adress the long-standing issue of poor wages, and said the larger workforce comprises of women in the industry

Siddaramaiah to address the long-standing issue of poor wages. He said 60% to 70% women comprise the total workforce of this industry.

Call to revoke

The convention unanimously called to revoke Factories (Karnataka Amendment) Act 2023, which workers deemed detrimental to their safety and well-being.

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE
Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao Road, Nagarabhavi P.O. Bengaluru-560 072.

Advertisement No. A/4/2023 | Date: 25.09.2023

RECRUITMENT OF DEPUTY LIBRARIAN AND ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN AT ISEC

Applications are invited for the following post in the Institute.

Sl.No.	Post	Number of Post	Category
1.	Deputy Librarian	1	Unreserved
2.	Assistant Librarian	1	Unreserved

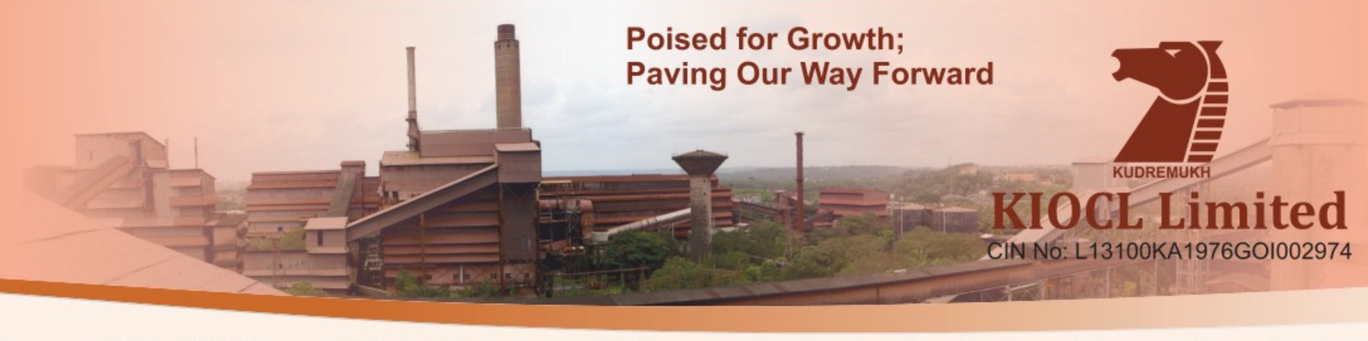
The last date for receiving applications is **October 25, 2023.**
Detailed advertisement and the prescribed application form can be downloaded from **www.isec.ac.in.**

ISEC-23417

Sd/-
Registrar

CHAIRMAN'S AGM SPEECH

At the 47th Annual General Meeting Held on Friday, September 22nd, 2023



Esteemed Shareholders, my colleagues on the Board, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

It is a privilege to speak to you and present the Annual Report for Financial Year 2022-23.

Let me begin by addressing the operating environment during the year gone by. Nonetheless, it was a challenging year for the steel industry. Globally, the industry made swift progress on the back of strong post-Covid recovery and growing infrastructure investments around the world.

However, the conflict in Ukraine aggravated existing inflationary pressures. Gas and coal prices surged, leading to a sharp increase in steel prices.

The economic crisis induced by the war resulted in lower demand for steel and it redirected trade flows. Moreover, during the fiscal, customs duty of 45% was levied on the export of Iron Ore Pellets.

Despite these challenges, our production during the year touched 1.51 Million Tonnes (Mt) and we dispatched 1.46 Million Tonnes of iron ore pellets, in comparison to production and dispatch of 2.03 Mt and 2.07 Mt respectively in FY2022. Besides, we recorded capacity utilisation of 43% during the fiscal year.

As far as our financial performance is concerned, our Revenue from Operations stood at ₹1,543.42 crores. Our income from Sale of Services (O&M Operations and Mineral Exploration Services) during the year was ₹ 20.47 crores, against ₹ 24.91 crores in the previous year. However, revenue from export declined by 46% to ₹ 1,361.43 crores in comparison to ₹ 2,928.97 crores in the previous financial year.

Mainly due to imposition of duty @ 45% on export of Iron Ore Pellets vide Customs Notification dated 21-05-2022, w.e.f. 22-05-2022, your Company was not in a position to export Iron Ore Pellets post duty imposition regime and coupled with high produce prices for domestic market, your Company incurred a Loss Before Tax of ₹ 122.76 crores against a Profit Before Tax of ₹ 411.03 crores in the previous year. However, the Government of India finally removed the export duty on November 19, 2022, but by then global steel prices had headed south

Market Scenario

India, continued to be the world's second largest producer of crude steel with the production of about 124.7 million tons crude steel in 2022, while finished steel production stood at 117.80 million tons. In Calendar year 2023, crude steel production is expected to touch nearly 134 million tons and finished production to reach around 127-128 million tons. World's crude steel production decreased by about 4.20% to 1,878.5 million tons in 2022 from 1960.4 million tons in 2021. As per World Steel Association report, in 2023, steel demand will see a marginal growth to reach about 1,881.4 million tons.

Seaborne Iron ore prices were highly volatile during 2023 and ended the year at their lowest in last 3 or 4 years. COVID-19 & property sector slowdown continued to weigh down steel demand in China. Prices in the western countries remained subdued because of weak demand, high inflation, and fear of recession. The fallout from Ukraine conflict has impacted the markets, by drying up ore supplies and growing energy crunch hampering Europe's steel output.

Levy of export duty on Export of pellets was a major dampener for standalone export-oriented pellet producer like KIOCL. The steep hike in export duty coupled with high cost of production have rendered KIOCL pellet exports unviable. Because of higher production cost, even iron ore pellets were not viable in domestic market. However, KIOCL started focusing on selling iron ore pellets in domestic market both through road and sea mode of dispatches for maximizing sales during the financial year 2022-23.

Pellet Exports from India stood at about 6.26 million tons during 2022-23 as against 11.14 million tons in the previous year, down by about 43.77 % on Year – on -Year. Pellet Exports from KIOCL stood at about 1.273 million tons during 2022-23 as against 2.032 million tons in the previous year, down by about 37.36 % on Year – on -Year. However, KIOCL's market share in export of pellets from India has increased from 18.20% in FY 2021-22 to 20.30% in FY: 2022-23.

Dividend

The Board of Directors had not recommended payment of dividend for the year 2022-23 due to absence of distributable profits. The Board has not recommended dividend based on the parameters laid down in the Dividend Distribution Policy.

CAPEX

Your Company had Incurred a CAPEX of ₹ 422.83 crores, highest post closure of captive mine during the Financial Year 2022-23, which was 110% of the Budget Estimate (BE) of ₹ 384.63 crores and against previous years CAPEX of ₹ 290.45 crores. 95 % of CAPEX expenditure was met through internal resources of the Company and balance was met from term loan.

Way forward - Creating KIOCL of tomorrow

For a sustainable future, your Company is continuously working on various long term / short term expansion / diversifications projects, which are at different stages of implementations / approvals from different regulatory authorities at the level of State Government and Central Government.

Development of Devdari Iron Ore Mine, Sandur Taluk, Ballari Dist., Karnataka

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Chage, Govt of India vide letter dated December 16, 2022 accorded Final Stage II Forest Clearance for diversion of 388 ha for mining and 13.5761 ha for ancillary activities for Devadari Iron Ore Mine. Govt. of Karnataka executed the Mining Lease deed on January 2, 2023 with KIOCL Ltd. for grant of a mining lease for Iron Ore and Manganese Ore, over an extent of 388 ha

for a period of 50 years in Devadari Range, Sandur Taluk, Ballari District, Karnataka State. The Mining Lease deed was registered at the Office of Sub-Registrar, Sandur taluk on 18-01-2023 and your Company incurred Rs. 329.17 Crores towards Stamp Duty & other charges for registering the ML deed.

Government of Karnataka issued Govt order for final diversion of Forest land 401.57610 ha on 11-04-2023. On handing over of forest land by DCF Ballary to KIOCL, Company will start the activities for commencement & development work at Devadari Iron Ore Mine to produce iron ore.

At KIOCL, we leverage over decades of experience to strengthen our foothold in the industry. With our strategic location in Karnataka, we seek to expand our operations by developing and commencing mining operation at the Devadari Iron Ore Mine.

Our efforts in this direction have been successful as the Government of Karnataka executed the Mining Lease deed on January 2, 2023, granting us the mining lease for Devadari Iron Ore Mine. This development allows us to re-enter into mining operations and optimise production capacity at our Pellet Plant.

We believe, as a result of this, we are well-positioned to take advantage of growing global demand for iron ore.

Installation of Vertical Pressure Filters in Pellet Plant Unit

Four (04) vertical Pressure filters have been installed at Pellet Plant to have flexibility to utilize the ore received from any part of the country. Auxiliary equipments are also being supplied by various vendors. Vertical Pressure Filter installation would improve the capacity utilization with flexibility in using iron ores of different types. The commissioning of Vertical Pressure filters is expected to be completed by Dec, 2023

Installation of dual burner system

Your Board in its 277th Meeting held on 04-02-2022 as a part of green initiative, has taken up the project of installing dual burner system in the indurating machine of Pellet Plant to utilise Natural Gas as an alternative to the Furnace Oil being used currently. The project cost is ₹ 36.80 Crores.

Setting up of Coke oven plant and DISP Plant with Modernization of BFU

Captive coke oven and PCI System will reduce the input raw material cost of Blast furnace operation. Construction of Non-Recovery Coke Oven Plant of capacity 1.8 lakh ton per annum at Mangalore is under progress. The technology of Coke Oven Plant is provided by M/s Central Institute of Mining & Fuel Research, under Atmanirbhar Bharath Initiative. Total cost of project is Rs. 185 Crores excluding GST. Civil works for Battery- 1 and Battery-2 are completed and structural erection work is under progress.

Implementation of ERP

SAP S/4 Hana ERP on cloud platform has gone live on April 1, 2023 with core modules. The project is named as "Ashwa Megha". The ERP implementation is a major milestone towards digital transformation of the Company.

Mineral Exploration Works

KIOCL is also engaged in mineral exploration and are involved in the exploration of minerals such as iron, manganese, limestone, nickel, chromium, copper, gold, lead, zinc, kyanite & phosphorite. During the year a total of nineteen (19) number of Mineral Exploration Projects for NMET, Govt. of Karnataka and others with cumulative approved project value of ₹ 134.95 crores (including GST) were handled. Additionally, Mineral Exploration works of Devadari Iron Ore Block (captive mine block) with approved project value of ₹ 24.86 Crores (including GST) was also carried out.

Corporate Social Responsibility - Growth with Goodness

Along with a focus on business growth, we continue to fulfil our obligation towards people and communities. It encourages us to undertake CSR projects encompassing the domain of healthcare and nutrition. We also directed efforts to promote education, provide access to clean drinking water, ensure environmental sustainability and promote skill development programmes for the marginalised sections of society. During the fiscal, we have spent ₹ 589.96 lakh towards our CSR activities. This includes funding for ongoing projects and set-off availed during the year.

Future Outlook

As we move forward, we are strategically redefining our approach to uncover new opportunities. We are continuously expanding and diversifying our operations. Along with foraying into mining operations, we are establishing a DISP Plant with a capacity of 2.0 LTPA, and a Coke Oven Plant with a capacity of 1.80 LTPA as backward integration projects. Additionally, we plan to make necessary modifications to the Blast Furnace Unit to improve its economic viability. We remain determined to explore new markets and segments to retain our competitive edge and reduce costs through process optimisation. Alongside, our continuous investment in people empower us with the expertise required to sustain growth and efficiency across our operations.

Corporate Governance

The philosophy of your Company in relation to corporate governance is to ensure transparency, disclosures and reporting that confirms fully with the laws and regulations of the country in order to promote ethical conduct & practices throughout the organisation for enhancing stakeholders' value. Your Company is committed to complying with the provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 relating to Corporate Governance and the guidelines on Corporate Governance for CPSE issued by Department of Public Enterprises, GoI from time to time.

Acknowledgement

As I conclude, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our dedicated team who helped us navigate a tough year. I am also grateful to our shareholders for their continued support. Finally, I would like to thank the Ministry of Steel, Central and State Governments, Regulatory authorities, our customers and all other stakeholders for being partners in our journey.

Thank You,

Sd/-
T. Saminathan
Chairman-cum-Managing Director

Date:22.09.2023
Place: Bangalore

Note: This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting

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Ecology Our Mission; Obsession

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of people about to move from Nagorno-Karabakh

1 lakh twenty thousand. The ethnic Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh will leave for Armenia as they do not want to live in Azerbaijan for fear of ethnic cleansing. It is not clear where the people would be housed in Armenia. REUTERS

Apple's production in India set to increase five-fold

40 in $ billion. Apple crossed the $7 billion production mark in the last financial year. The company manufactures iPhones in India and has plans to start manufacturing Airpods from next year. PTI

The number of bombs defused in Tehran by the authorities

30 Authorities neutralised the bombs meant to go off simultaneously in Tehran. They have also detained 28 terrorists linked to the Islamic State, according to Iran's intelligence ministry. REUTERS

The FPI outflows from Indian equities in September

10,000 in ₹ crore. Foreign Portfolio Investors have pulled out due to rising U.S. interest rates, recessionary fears, and overvalued domestic stocks. PTI

The cost overruns in infrastructure projects in August

4.77 in ₹ lakh crore. As many as 412 infra projects, each entailing an investment of ₹150 crore or more, have been hit by cost overruns. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Fukushima N-wastewater controversy

How did the contamination occur? Why is water being released now? What is the process of treating nuclear wastewater? Will such treatment remove all radioactive material from the water? Why has China banned seafood from Japan? How has South Korea reacted to the decision?

EXPLAINER

Sonikka Loganathan

The story so far:
Last month, amid strong backlash from the public and neighbouring countries, Japan began the release of contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea.

What happened?
On April 13, 2021, Japan's government announced plans to release over one million tonnes of contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea over the next 30 years. The wastewater is a byproduct of the catastrophic 2011 earthquake and tsunami, which disabled the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, leading to the release of radioactive materials. After more than a decade of storing this wastewater, Japan says they are running out of storage space, and allege that the, now treated water is safe for release.

However, since the announcement in 2021, a sizeable fraction of the public, both domestic and foreign, have been speaking out against this decision, claiming that mixing radioactive materials in the sea poses major health risks, especially since these countries rely heavily on seafood.

How is the water being treated?
The water is being treated by the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), Japan's largest electric utility firm. Since 2011, TEPCO has been in charge of decommissioning the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, and managing the waste. The water has been treated with multiple techniques, notably the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS), which removes 62 types of radioactive materials.

However, it doesn't remove tritium. TEPCO and the Japanese government argue that the concentration of tritium does not exceed international standards, in particular, those of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations' nuclear watchdog. According to TEPCO's website, the radiation emitted by tritium is "extremely weak, and can be blocked with a single sheet of paper." The concentration is also six times less than the limit for tritium in drinking water, set by the World Health Organization.

"You can't remove tritium because it is identical to hydrogen. So removing it, chemically extracting it from wastewater becomes quite impossible," explains Dr. Arun Vishwanathan, Associate Professor at the School of National Security Studies at Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar. "What they [have done], and what other nuclear plants ... also do is mix it with water so that the tritium quantity reduces further, before it is actually released into the sea."

How has the public responded?
Fears persist within the majority. A poll conducted by Japan's Jiji Press in September shows that 16.3% of respondents are opposed to the discharge of the treated water, and 30.8% were neither opposed nor in favour. Several protests have been held in Seoul against the release, and many hoarded seafood ahead of the discharge. Some surveys show that 80-85% of South Koreans oppose the water's release. The Chinese government, which has been against Japan's decision since the announcement was made, has already banned seafood from Japan.

"Countries have to balance what is the scientific truth, or what can be established, and the general perception of the public," says Mr. Vishwanathan, adding that these fears always come up after such large-scale disasters.

Concerns of safety: South Korean protesters demand a stop to Japan's release of treated radioactive water into the sea in South Korea on August 26. AP

Is the water safe?
M. V. Ramana, Professor and Simons Chair in Disarmament, Global and Human Security School of Public Policy and Global Affairs at the University of British Columbia, says that, although, scientifically, the levels of radiation in the wastewater are not so high as to cause panic, there is evidence showing that exposure to radiation, even at low levels, can harm the health of humans and the environment.

"[Tritium] is easily absorbed by the bodies of living creatures when it is in the form of tritiated water, and rapidly distributed throughout bodies via blood. Since tritiated water can pass through the placenta, it could lead to developmental effects in babies when ingested by pregnant women." Chemically, he said there is no difference between tritiated water and water with tritiate. He also pointed out that the IAEA's most important objective is to 'seek to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy.' He said that "one should not be surprised that they underplay the risks involved".

"Japan is trying to use the IAEA decision as a tool to release the water," says Jagannath Panda, Head of the Stockholm Center for South Asian and Indo-Pacific Affairs (SCSA-IPA) and Editor of the Institute Security and Development Policy, which he says have somewhat brought public, political and social stakeholders to a consensus in Japan.

Mr. Vishwanathan further explains that there is no other option, besides releasing the water, partially because of space around the plant, but also because of potential leakages. "They don't want to take this all over the country and store this – it increases the cost and the risk [of leaks] exponentially." Besides, governments knew that the handling of this wastewater would have to be dealt with, since the earthquake hit.

How is this affecting regional politics?
Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol publicly ate seafood after the discharge began in order to strengthen public trust in the water treatment process. A key factor for Japan in maintaining relations with South Korea in particular, has been transparency over the treatment and release process. South Korea's government, following repeated consolation by the IAEA, has told people that the water and the seafood is safe. They have also assured the public that they will continuously monitor the seawater and seafood, and that the 2011 ban on seafood from the water near Fukushima, would remain intact.

For Mr. Kishida and Mr. Yoon, the water may pose more geopolitical problems than health issues. Japan colonised the Korean peninsula in the early 20th century, and the tensions of that time continue to strain relations even now. But both leaders have been working toward forming friendlier relations, especially given the potential threats that their more aggressive neighbours, China and North Korea, present. Mr. Panda said that, although the South Korean government had opposed the water's release, the IAEA's approval was able to provide adequate reassurance.

Maintaining transparency on the risks and the measures being taken has helped Japan's domestic and geopolitical standing. Mr. Vishwanathan explained that since 2021, Japanese authorities have met with their regional counterparts, like South Korea and China, and even Russia, to discuss the treatment and release plan. Although China and Russia were not on board at the time of the release, he said most other countries were comforted by such transparent communication.

What is the significance of China's hardline response?
Mr. Vishwanathan said that China's response must be seen through a wider geopolitical lens. Japan-Sino relations have fluctuated repeatedly in the recent past, especially as China grows its military presence in the South China Sea. This has evoked more nationalist sentiments from both sides, making this wastewater issue notable, but not necessarily new.

China is also watching South Korea and Japan's strengthening relationship. "China, of course, is not comfortable about the growing bonhomie between South Korea and Japan. The Chinese government aims to make it an issue just to create further strategic fissures between South Korea and Japan," explains Mr. Panda. "Though it appears at present to be a big issue, I don't think that the Chinese government will succeed in politicising the issues to create a further divide between South Korea and Japan."

What next?
Japan will release the treated wastewater over the next 30 years, and will continue to monitor the seawater's radiation. The government is also setting aside 80 billion yen to compensate fishers who will lose business because of public fears. The government is looking to revive the country's nuclear power plant industry, with the hopes to stabilise the energy sector. Before the 2011 earthquake, 30% of Japan's electricity needs were met via nuclear reactors. In March, less than 10% of Japan's power came from these facilities. "It appears to want to create the impression that the Fukushima accident is long over, whereas the reality is that it will be decades and decades before... the radioactive materials [are] at least segregated," states Mr. Ramana.

THE GIST

On April 13, 2021, Japan's government announced plans to release over one million tonnes of contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea over the next 30 years.

Since 2011, TEPCO has been in charge of decommissioning the Fukushima Daiichi power plant, and managing the waste. The water has been treated with multiple techniques, notably the Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS), which removes 62 types of radioactive materials.

A key factor for Japan in maintaining relations with South Korea in particular, has been transparency over the treatment and release process. South Korea's government, following repeated consolation by the IAEA, has told people that the water and the seafood is safe.

Contractors who executed ward works have to wait longer for bill clearance

Only 10% of the total ₹601 crore released under Special Infrastructure Projects allocated towards ward works; contractors seek corrective measures

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The contractors who have executed civic works at the ward level under the Special Infrastructure Projects (SIPs) may have to wait longer for the payment of pending bills.

The government has allocated only 10% of the total ₹601 crore released under the SIPs towards ward works. According to data, bills to the tune of over ₹1,000 crore are pending. While ₹675 crore was set aside under the SIP, about ₹74 crore has been released to Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd.

A file photo of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike head office.

Under ₹601 crore, according to the order accessed by *The Hindu*, funds have been distributed under eight categories. Storm-water drain and arterial road works have been allocated 30% each, while ward works, white topping and flyover works have been allocated 10% each. Solid waste management has a share of 2%, building works - 5% and lakes - 3%. These were works executed in the last eight months when the BJP government was in power. The works were completed expeditiously in view of the Assembly elections.

Allocation details

Category	Allocation	Amount in ₹ crore
Ward works	10%	60
SWM	2%	13
Building	5%	30
White topping	10%	60
Lakes	3%	18
SWD	30%	180
Flyover	10%	60
Arterial roads	30%	180
Total	100%	601

Opposition
The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Contractors' Association is opposing this, saying allocation among works is disproportionate and the highest number of ward works were executed in the eight months due to the elections. Of the ₹601 crore, only ₹60 crore is released for ward works while over ₹1,100 crore is pending. The government is trying to pacify the contractors saying funds would be released in the next quarter. This means many contractors who worked at the ward level have to wait.

'Will lead to bias'
Contractors' association president K.T. Manjunath said this also leads to bias as the government would make the payment to select contractors. He said the allocation among works should be proportionate and all contractors should be treated equally and urged the government to take corrective measures.

Teachers to study aspects of Gita, gurukula system in UGC's new training curriculum

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

There is opposition brewing among a section of academics to the University Grant Commission's (UGC) new teacher training programme – Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme (MMTTP) – launched in the name of Madan Mohan Malaviya, freedom fighter, educationist, founder of Banaras Hindu University and Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha.

Earlier this month, the UGC released a brochure on the MMTTP, according to which, among eight themes that have been identified for the teachers training programme under 'Holistic Education' are study of the Bhagavad Gita and other scriptures, the teaching-learning system of *gurukula*, *guru-shishya parampara*, and so on. Among the slew of subjects that are classified as 'Indian Knowledge System', a trainee studies topics such as 'Introduction to the concepts of non-translatables (example: Dharma, punya, aatma, karma, yagna, shakti, varna, jaati, moksha, loka, daana, itihaasa, and puraana)'.

"The outcome of the capacity-building training will be the metamorphosis of higher education in terms of Indian values, teaching, research, publication, patents, and institutional development," says the brochure of the training programme, emphasising that it will be in alignment with the recommendations of National Education Policy (NEP-2020). "Teachers and learners will acquire the concept of the Indian Knowledge System and apply it in real life for the advancement and creation of knowledge," says the UGC, adding that the target is 15 lakh faculty members over the period of three years.

The module, UGC says, will 'impart holistic education, imbibing the ideals of India-centric ethics and human values'

Centres across India
The UGC has also decided to establish 111 Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centres across the country and five of them will be in Karnataka. They will be at the Regional Institute of Education in Mysuru, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru, the University of Mysore, Bangalore University, and Karnatak University, Dharwad.

A sections of educationists have opposed the MMTTP. While some have questioned the content, others have asked why NEP-based training is taking place when Karnataka is set to introduce its own policy, setting aside the NEP.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, B. Sripada Bhatt, an educationist, contended that NEP had the agenda of "advocating the ideology of the RSS" with little focus on the aspirations of the deprived classes for modern education, of the need to foster the ideals of the Constitution, scientific temperament, and rationality. "Now they have released a document called the MMTTP which is also going to impose Brahminical ideas on colleges faculty members," he alleged.

'No progress yet'
The Vice-Chancellor of a State university, who wished to be anonymous, said, "Despite the State government's announcement of withdrawal of the NEP in Karnataka, there has been no progress in the formation of a separate committee for the State Education Policy. Amid all these developments, the UGC is ordering various programmes and going to implement many projects under the NEP. The MMTTP is the latest development. It has created a lot of confusion for the VCs, faculty members, and students. We are demanding clarifications and directions in this regard from the State government."

Biomethanisation plant infrastructure to be revived and expanded in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city is all set to not only revive the dysfunctional biomethanisation plants but will also get four new plants with the same technology. There are 13 biomethanisation plants in the city, each with five tonnes per day (TPD) capacity, of which presently only three are partially running.

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML) has now taken up a project to revive seven of the dysfunctional plants at a cost of ₹4.5 crore. It will also upgrade the remaining six in the second phase. Meanwhile, the company has also taken up a project to install four new Bio-CNG plants in Basavanagudi, Kogilu, Byatarayanapura, and Mahadevapura at a cost of ₹10 crore.

A file photo of a biomethanisation plant at Freedom Park in Bengaluru.

Technology update
"Ten of the 13 existing plants have been dysfunctional for a long time now. Moreover, these plants need an update of technology as well, which we are carrying out now. The four new plants will also come up soon," said Basavaraj Khabade, MD, BSWML.

Once all these works are completed, the city will have 17 biomethanisation plants of five TPD capacity each, totalling to 85 TPD capacity. While these plants put together do not add up to much capacity, even as nearly 3,000 tonnes of waste is being landfilled every day, they show the way ahead. "Ideally, we need a five TPD capacity plant in every ward of the city so that all the wet waste generated in the ward is handled within the ward itself," said SWM activist Sandhya Narayan.

Decentralised SWM
Mr. Khabade said that the BSWML also wanted to expand on the biomethanisation plant infrastructure and go towards a more decentralised SWM in the city. "It will not only reduce our reliance on landfills, but also save a lot of cost as the garbage is now being transported from across the city to its northern outskirts," he said.

Hurdles
However, he said the biggest hurdles to establishing new plants were two-fold – lack of space and opposition from residents around the area.

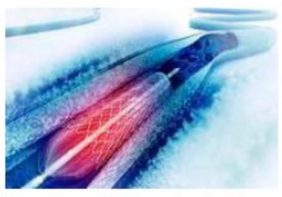
"Finding space to establish these plants is a herculean task and in most places, residents oppose such SWM infrastructure in their neighbourhoods. For instance, the biomethanisation plant in Mahalakshmi Layout has been shut down and a case filed by residents around the plant asking it to be shut down is pending in the Supreme Court," he said.

Jayadeva Satellite Centre at K.C. General Hospital completes 1,000 angiograms in less than a year

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The 50-bed satellite centre of the Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research (SJICSR) at K.C. General Hospital, inaugurated in October last year, has crossed a milestone by completing 1,005 angiograms as on Saturday, September 23.

Doctors at the satellite centre, which has come as a boon to patients with cardiac emergencies requiring the golden hour treatment in central Bengaluru, see over 100 patients in the outpatient department (OPD) here every day. As many as 250 angioplasties and stenting procedures apart from 18,000 echocardiograms (ECHOs) have been done at the centre so far.


As many as 250 angioplasties and stenting procedures have been done at the Jayadeva Satellite Centre at K.C. General Hospital in Bengaluru.
GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

SJICSR director C.N. Manjunath said a total of over 23,350 patients, including 1,300 in-patients, had been seen and 14,500 electrocardiograms (ECGs) done here so far.

"While the load on the main Jayadeva institute is also increasing, nearly 80 ECHOs, 70 ECGs, and over six angiograms and angioplasties are being done daily at the satellite centre. Importantly, many patients from other departments in K.C. General Hospital undergoing non-cardiac surgeries, who otherwise were referred to the main Jayadeva or other cardiac facilities for an evaluation, are now seen and assessed at the centre itself," he said.

With the inauguration of the 350-bed Infosys Foundation cardiac hospital complex on the premises of the main Jayadeva campus, the institute is now better equipped to accommodate the increasing daily caseload for cardiac emergencies and elective cardiac care.

Dr. Manjunath pointed out that the patient load at the Infosys complex was also increasing by the day. "Since its inauguration in November 2021, over one lakh patients have been treated and 1,250 open heart surgeries and 5,200 paediatric procedures have been done at the Infosys complex. Besides, 29,627 ECGs and 44,266 ECHOs have been done here," Dr. Manjunath said.

Panel's appreciation
Recently, 14 members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health, who visited the main Jayadeva institute to study the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka scheme, were impressed by the quality of services provided to patients.

"The delegation, led by Bhubaneshwar Kalita, could not believe that the institute is a government facility because of the hygiene, infrastructure, and patient-friendly atmosphere," Dr. Manjunath said.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, SEP. 25		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:14
RISE	15:07	SET 01:45
TUESDAY, SEP. 26		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:13
RISE	16:00	SET 02:49
WEDNESDAY, SEP. 27		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:12
RISE	16:48	SET 03:52

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower..

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THE HINDU
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From Page One

Support for Bengaluru bandh call pours in

On the other hand, the Outer Ring Road Companies' Association said that it would encourage the member-companies to evaluate the situation, considering potential business implications and make decisions accordingly.

While a section of autorickshaw drivers has declared complete support to the bandh and decided to keep vehicles off the road, T. M. Rudramurthy, general secretary, Autorickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU), said that a decision was yet to be made. "As we were off the road on September 11 too, it might not be possible to remain off the road for another day. However, our moral support is guaranteed for the cause. We will decide by Monday," he said.

Leaders of the Karnataka Television Artists' Association, Karnataka Rakshana Vedike Swabhimani Balaga, Karnataka Karmikara Parishat, Jaya Karnataka, Karnataka Christians' Association, and Goods Vehicles Drivers and Owners' Association also declared support for Bengaluru bandh at a press conference on Sunday.

Airport commute may take a hit
With BMTC and KSRTC employees declaring complete support for the bandh, public transport in the city, including airport services, is likely to take a hit on Tuesday.

Chandrashekhar, leader of Karnataka State Road Transport Employees' League, said: "As the bandh is from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., airport services during those hours will be affected"

A source in the Transport Department confirmed that all bus services and airport bus services would be hit on the day of bandh.

With taxi drivers also extending support to the bandh call, those going to the airport on Tuesday would have to entirely rely on their own vehicles.

Meanwhile, speaking to presspersons in Bengaluru, Mr. Nagaraj said: "This is not about one district but the whole State. That is why we have called for a Karnataka bandh which will be held under the leadership of Kannada Okkoota. All pro-Kannada outfits should extend their support to that bandh. While the leadership has decided to call for bandh on September 29, the final decision will be made after a meeting on Monday. As for those calling for Bengaluru bandh, I will neither ask them to do it nor tell them to not do it."

When asked about it, Kurubur Shanthakumar, farmers' leader who has given the Bengaluru bandh call, said: "We are very happy with the overwhelming support we have received for our bandh call. It is already late, and we do not want to wait till September 29. A delegation of some five members from our side will attend the meeting called by Mr. Nagaraj on Monday and try to convince him to extend support to our call."

Congress issues directive to its leaders

Seeking unity, he said: "We want to clearly reiterate that the Karnataka model of a welfare government requires complete unity and cohesion within the party, as also dedication to the goal of continuously implementing the Congress guarantees. Divisive or confusing statements made publicly by party leaders would impact the discipline and solidarity that have been the hallmark of success." Further, Mr. Venugopal said: "I urge upon all party leaders to raise party- and government-related issues on party forums and not in public. Any such remarks will go against the interests of the party and the smooth functioning of the government. Such public remarks are unacceptable and unwarranted. Every Congress worker and leader should take note of."

Text & Context and Science
Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (September 25, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- The Fukushima N-wastewater controversy **bit.ly/nuclearwastewater**
- The story of how scientists found that our ancestors almost went extinct **bit.ly/extinctancestors**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Conference held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The fourth international conference on 'Emerging research in civil, aeronautical and mechanical engineering' at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Yelahanka, was held recently. Close to 1,000 researchers, representatives of industries, and students of technology participated in it.

"In the short span of one decade, we have grown meticulously, almost to reach the top position in the field of science, technology and infrastructure, thanks to our young talented engineers who succeed in finding indigenous sustainable solutions for the problems and challenges the country was facing. India, which was a leading 'import country', has now become a leading 'export nation'," said G. Satheesh Reddy, president, Aeronautical Society of India, and former DRDO chairman, while inaugurating the conference.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Worsening relations: Khalistan flags are seen outside the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara Sahib in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada on September 18. AP

How the rising influence of ethnic Indians causes frictions in India-Canada ties

Indian diplomats have the obligation to highlight the damage to bilateral ties when Canadian politicians support separatism in India. These diplomatic activities cannot be construed as interference in Canada's internal affairs

Vivek Katju

On September 19, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated that his government is investigating possible links between the Indian government and the assassination of Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. This statement has escalated tensions between India and Canada with trade talks paused and diplomats fired. In this article, dated June 14, 2023, Vivek Katju talks about the tensions between the two nations on account of the ethnic Indian population in Canada.

During a pro-Khalistani parade on June 4 in Brampton, Canada, there was a tableau that depicted a lady clad in a white sari, who was bloodied, with two soldiers training their guns on her. The board behind her read, "Revenge of attack on Shri Darbar Sahib". The side of the float carried the words, "Never forget 1984". Clearly, the tableau figures depicted were that of India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her assassins.

The Indian response

In a media conference on June 8, to commemorate nine years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration, the External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, was asked about the Brampton tableau. He chose not to refer directly to the offensive float though he indirectly indicated that it was "egregious". Instead, he focused, as he put it, on the "bigger" issue – the space Canada gives "to separatists, to extremists, to people who advocate violence." He added, "... and I think it's not good for the relationship and I think it's not good for Canada." Mr. Jaishankar did well to speak out, openly and forcefully, on Canada's hypocritical approaches on human rights issues and its decades long disdain for the territorial integrity of India.

This stated, it is remarkable that Mr. Jaishankar could not get himself around to take the name of Indira Gandhi. The glorification of "revenge" by anyone for the assassination of an Indian Prime Minister is an issue beyond party politics or personal pique for it concerns the dignity of the nation. This is so even if a Prime Minister took actions, like Indira Gandhi did in June 1984, that were controversial and the Congress party's role in the anti-Sikh 1984 riots was condemnable. Ironically, while Mr. Jaishankar did not name Indira Gandhi, the Canadian High Commissioner to India Cameron Mackay did. He tweeted, "I am appalled by reports of an event in Canada that celebrated the assassination of late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi." Indeed, the country's positions would be better and more credibly articulated if the able, popular and powerful politician that Mr. Jaishankar has become does not completely obscure his former avatar of a distinguished diplomat.

Diaspora and foreign policy

The ethnic Indian community, including the Sikhs, plays an important role in Canada's public life. There are currently some ethnic Indians in Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's cabinet. At the press conference, Mr. Jaishankar mentioned Canada's indulgence of Khalistani elements (he did not use the word, but that is clearly what he had in mind) and aptly attributed it to 'vote bank' politics. It is the ethnic Indian, and, in this case, not restricted to a Khalistani-'vote bank' that had led Mr. Trudeau to comment on the farmers' agitation which was a purely domestic Indian issue. India naturally found Mr. Trudeau's remarks unacceptable.

Mr. Jaishankar's comments on Canadian attitudes to ethnic Indians provide an occasion to consider the Indian political class's approaches towards the diaspora which has gained political, financial and professional success in many countries. It has become a pillar of foreign policy, especially of the present dispensation which has also used Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity with a vast section of the diaspora to impress domestic public opinion. Also, wherever the diaspora is politically important, local politicians want to use Mr. Modi's popularity for their political purposes. The latest illustration of this phenomena was Mr. Modi's diaspora rally during his recent visit to Australia which was attended by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Following Mr. Modi's example, other Indian political players will also now play diaspora politics. The Congress's Rahul Gandhi's recent visit to the United States is a case in point. Thus, the tradition that Indian domestic politics will not be taken beyond the shores of India no longer holds.

Another significant issue which Mr. Jaishankar addressed during the media briefing related to the remarks of Jody Thomas, Canada's National Security and Intelligence Adviser. Speaking at a conference organised by the Canada Global Affairs Institute on June 2, Ms. Thomas said, "When I talk about foreign interference and economic security, I'm now talking of a number of state actors and non-state proxies. This includes Russia, Iran, India." That said, the actor that comes up most on these issues, and it is no surprise to anybody, is China. In response Mr. Jaishankar used the Hindi language phrase, "*Ulta Chor Kotwal ko daten* (The thief scolds the police)". He rightly dismissed Ms. Thomas' comment outright. India cannot be accused of seeking to influence Canadian domestic affairs if its diplomats openly interact with the Indian diaspora there. Indian diplomats have the obligation to point to the diaspora and others the harmful impact on bilateral ties when Canadian politicians support separatism in India. These diplomatic activities cannot be construed as interference in Canada's internal affairs.

Canadian politics

The harsh reality of the current Canadian political situation is that Mr. Trudeau is critically dependent on the New Democratic Party (NDP) for his government's survival and Jagmeet Singh, the NDP leader, is a committed Khalistan sympathiser.

He had asked Mr. Trudeau to intervene in the events in Punjab surrounding radical preacher Amritpal Singh's activities. Coming from a Canadian government ally, this was naturally unacceptable to India.

Bilateral ties are passing through difficult times but cooperation in many areas continues. One eye-catching one is the Cannabis medicine project.

Vivek Katju is a retired Indian Foreign Service officer

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Media mogul Rupert Murdoch stepped down as chairman of Fox News and News Corp. A quiz on the controversies related to the many media organisations that he controlled

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Which long running newspaper, later acquired by Mr. Murdoch, closed down after 168 years in print, due to a "phone hacking scandal" that resulted in arrests and convictions of many including the newspaper's ex-managing editor Andy Coulson?

QUESTION 2

Which company won one of the largest settlements in U.S. litigation history in April 2023 by forcing Fox News to pay up $787.5 million for having broadcast false statements about it? What were the false statements about?

QUESTION 3

This long-serving executive in Fox News is credited with increasing the network's popularity (and notoriety) by following an unabashed right wing agenda. He later resigned from Fox News after multiple sexual harassment allegations by several female employees. Name him.

QUESTION 4

This novel by British author Jeffrey Archer chronicles the lives of two media barons, both of whom are based on Mr. Murdoch and Robert Maxwell. Name the novel.

QUESTION 5

Long before the "Murdoch press" promoted "tabloidisation" of the press in the U.K., Australia and in the U.S. — reducing the size of the newspaper from broadsheet format, engaging in sensationalism, gossip, lewdness and even plain false news, what term was used, mostly in the U.S., to describe such journalism?

Visual question:
Name this comedian who made a mark with his satirical eponymous show on Comedy Central spoofing opinion-anchors from Fox News. Name the show as well. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the September 22 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The document that is said to have been one of the inspirations for creating the *The West Wing* series. **Ans: The President's Daily Diary**
2. In the iconic episode Game On, this character breaks down why some issues are too complex and need more than ten-word answers. **Ans: President Josiah Bartlett**
3. The fictional West Asian country referenced in the show. **Ans: Qumar**
4. The show popularised this style where two characters deliver dialogues while walking through an office. **Ans: Walk and Talk**
5. This character was mentioned in a fundraising email from Joe Biden's campaign in 2019. **Ans: Toby Ziegler**
6. On the show, Evelyn Baker Lang took charge as the first what? **Ans: First female Chief Justice**
Visual: The number of Emmy wins *The West Wing* has. **Ans: 26 awards**
Early Birds: Harsha| K. N. Viswanathan

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I am going to get a foreword from him

When I get promoted to a senior position, I intend to pay him back in his own coin

S. Upendran

What does 'pay someone back in his own coin' mean? (K. Bhanu, Vellore)
In life, not everyone treats us the same way; if they did, then our life would be very boring indeed! There are some people who treat us with love and respect, while many remain mostly indifferent. Then, there are those who treat us rather badly for no reason at all. We become rather angry with these individuals because we believe they are being unfair in their treatment of us. Should an opportunity arise, we would not hesitate to take revenge on them. When we 'pay someone back in their own coin', what we do is to treat them the way they treated us.

You be careful, Ashwin. I intend to pay you back in your own coin.

What is the difference between 'foreword' and 'preface'? (Yogendra Kumar, Patna)
The 'ref' in 'preface' is pronounced like the word 'ref', while the following 'a' is like the 'i' in 'sit', 'chit' and 'lit'. The word is pronounced 'PREF-is' with the stress on the first syllable. The two syllables in 'foreword' sound like the words 'fore' and 'word'. The word is pronounced 'FORE-word'.

'Preface' comes from the Latin 'praefatia' meaning 'words spoken beforehand'. A 'preface' always appears at the beginning of a book; it is always written by the author, and in it, he speaks directly to his readers giving them information about the various aspects of the book – the intent, the background, the organisation, etc.

It took the author several days to come up with a decent preface.

Unlike a 'preface', a 'foreword', is usually written by someone other than the author; this individual is usually well-known. Like the author in the preface, the writer of the 'foreword' talks directly to the reader telling them how much he enjoyed the book. A 'foreword' is usually signed by the person writing it, and if the individual is very famous, then his name is included on the book cover.

Rahul Dravid has agreed to write the foreword to my book.

What is the correct pronunciation of 'direct'? (C. Mahesh, Bengaluru)
This is a word that can be used as an adjective, adverb and verb. No matter how you use the word, there are two different ways of pronouncing it. One way is to pronounce the first syllable 'di' like the word 'die', and then rhyme the 'rec' in the second syllable with the words, 'neck', 'peck' and 'deck'. It is also possible to pronounce the 'i' in the first syllable like the 'i' in 'pit', 'hit' and 'knit'. The stress in both cases, is on the second syllable – 'die-REKT' and 'di-REKT'

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Morass:
a soft wet area of low-lying land that sinks underfoot

Synonyms: slack, quag, quagmire, mire

Usage: *During monsoons, the track beneath this bridge becomes a muddy morass.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/morasspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /məˈɹæs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

EDUCATIONPLUS

The publishing conundrum

An overview of the advantages and challenges involved in publishing research results during a Ph.D. programme

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

S.N. Sridhara

Registration for a Ph.D. comes with the intention of carrying out research in an unexplored area and contributing to the scientific repository with new results on the identified topic.

The first stage is the identification of the need for research on defined topics. This is established through a survey and review of existing literature, which identifies the gaps and sets the stage for defining the area of research.

Since the researcher has to embark on a hunt to frame the research problem, it is necessary to publish the results of research and make them accessible to the scientific community for continued research by others.

Advantages

Let's list some benefits of publishing research results in journals and conference proceedings, before submitting the thesis for the award of the Ph.D.

Publishing research findings during doctoral studies can improve career prospects, as this demonstrates the candidate's ability to carry out independent research, communicate results effectively and contribute to the academic field.

Collaboration and network building: The main advantage of presenting research papers at national and international conferences is the possibility of networking and collaboration.

The second is the legitimate use of resources and efforts to achieve a combined result, thereby avoiding 're-inventing the wheel' by many and in many places.

Critical feedback: Whether it is a conference report or a journal publication, the paper gathers critical feedback during the review process. This enhances the quality and rigour of research, promotes critical thinking, and contributes to the researcher's growth and development.

Increased citations: Publishing in reputed journals allows increased research citations and wide recognition.

Citations indicate that other researchers are referring to and relying on the published research, demonstrating the impact and influence of the publication. This will be reinforced as researchers from around the world publish collaborative papers.

Career opportunities: Publishing research findings during doctoral studies can improve career prospects, as this demonstrates the candidate's ability to carry out independent research, communicate results effectively and contribute to the academic field.

Gaining credibility: Finally, an unpublished research work that goes only into the dissertation loses its credibility and ends up only on library shelves.

Institutional credits: The rating and accreditation agencies of institutions around the world assess institutional merit with weightings of 30% to 40% in the overall rating system.

Challenges and limitations

Despite the many advantages, there are also limitations and potential disadvantages to consider:

Time limit: Researching, analysing data and preparing a document for publication takes time. The added responsibility of preparation and submission can be stressful and may hinder progress.

Possibility of rejections: The peer review process can be challenging and several refusals may lead to demoralisation. This may negatively impact the scholar's motivation and confidence.

Difficulty of contrasting results: The publication process may be biased in favour of positive and quantitative results. Ph.D. scholars may find it difficult to publish findings that counter existing literature.

Ethical and confidential aspects: Some research projects may involve sensitive data or information that needs to be kept confidential such as defence-related problems or for a private company that requires confidentiality of findings.

Intellectual Property Rights: Some findings might lead to highly valued patents, in which case the publication of research in open domain could be restricted to protect the intellectual property with commercial values.

Lack of cooperation: In some instances, collaborative research projects may involve several authors or researchers. This requires the contributors to cooperate and decide issues such as author order and identification of corresponding author.

While the process may be laborious and not all research conducted during a doctorate may lead to publications, healthy discussions with advisors and peers will help advance the Ph.D. programme effectively.

The writer is the Vice Chancellor, Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science, Chennai

SCHOLARSHIPS

LIC HFL Vidyadhan Scholarship 2023
LIC Housing Finance Limited aims to empower students from low-income groups.
Eligibility: Open to Indian students studying in Class 11 and in the first year of UG and PG programmes (in the academic year 2023-24) who have scored more than 60% marks in the previous qualifying exam. Annual family income must not be more than ₹360,000 from all sources.
Rewards: Up to ₹ 25,000 per year
Application: Online
Deadline: September 30
www.b4s.in/edge/LHVC11

Teach for India Fellowship 2024
An opportunity for young graduates to serve as full-time teachers. to children from underserved communities.
Eligibility: Open to an Indian citizen or an Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) who has completed graduation by June/July 2024
Rewards: ₹23,043 per month and other benefits
Application: Online
Deadline: October 15
www.b4s.in/edge/TFIF1

K-India TOEFL Scholarship
Offered by the National Indian Students and Alumni Union in partnership with ETS TOEFL to 25 Indian students. who wish to pursue UG or PG studies.
Eligibility: Open to Indian who have received an offer letter from a university in the U.K; have a minimum score of 75 out of 120 in TOEFL in the last two years and are enrolling for the first time at a U.K. university.
Rewards: $3,000 (one-time)
Application: Online
Deadline: October 31
www.b4s.in/edge/UKIT1

Courtesy: Buddy4study

SAVE THE DATE

Edureka launches two new courses
Edureka has introduced two new programmes: a six-month Advanced Certificate Programme in Cyber Security and Advanced Certificate Programme in Cloud Computing powered by E&ICT Academy, IIT Guwahati.
Eligibility: For the Cybersecurity programme, applicants who have studied Physics, Chemistry and Maths in Class 12 and have completed UG or OG degrees. IT professionals, developers and system administrators can also apply. For the Cloud Computing programme, applicants should have studied Physics, Chemistry and Maths in Class 12 and completed BCA, B.Tech, B.E, or B.Sc. Diploma holders with basic programming knowledge can also apply
To apply, and for details, visit https://bitly.ws/V9rU or https://bitly.ws/V9rG

M.Sc. Economics of Business and Management
The University of Essex, the U.K., has launched an one-year M.Sc. Economics of Business and Management programme.
Eligibility: Minimum 55% in the Bachelor's degree. IELTS overall score of 6.0, with a minimum score of 5.5 in all components
Deadline: October 20
For details, visit https://bitly.ws/UUvL

B.Sc. Sport and Exercise
The University of Bath, the U.K, has opened applications for its B.Sc. Sport and Exercise course for 2024-25.
Eligibility: Those taking the Class 12 Board exam through the CBSE or ICSE must have an average of 80% across four subjects with 85% in Maths or a Science Subject and 75% in English. Psychology is accepted as a Science but Physical Education is not accepted as one of four. Accepted English qualifications include the IELTS, PTE Academic and TOEFL IBT. Those who do not meet the requirements can complete an International Foundation Year with Bath College. Students who need to improve their English language skills first may be eligible to take a pre-sessional course to reach the required level.
Deadline: January 31, 2024
For details, visit https://bitly.ws/V8XX

Robotics with a Foundation Year BEng
The University of Sheffield, the U.K., invites applications for its four-year Robotics with a Foundation Year BEng course starting in September 2024.
Eligibility: 70 -75 % marks in Class 12 including Maths, and at least any one subject (Physics, Chemistry or Biology); IELTS grade of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or an alternative acceptable qualification.
For details, visit https://bitly.ws/UUxK

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INBRIEF

Police complaint against Siddaramaiah and Yathindra

A police complaint has been lodged against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his son Yathindra for allegedly inducing voters of Varuna constituency in Mysuru during the last Assembly elections.

In a complaint to Nanjangud police station on Sunday, A.N. Rangu, resident of Alaguru in T. Narsipura taluk, alleged that Mr. Yathindra revealed at a function of the Madiwala community in Nanjangud on September 15 that Mr. Siddaramaiah had distributed cookers and iron boxes to voters.

He contended that the distribution of cookers and iron boxes to voters constituted a violation of law as it amounted to inducing the voters.

Pointing out that the candidate had not disclosed the financial expenditure arising on account of distribution of the same, the complainant sought a probe into the matter.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Preetham Gowda's prophecy

The coming together of the BJP and the JD(S) has prompted people of Hassan to recall BJP leader Preetham Gowda's *(pictured)* statement only days before the Assembly polls earlier this year. He was a BJP MLA from Hassan at that point and seeking re-election.

In one of his campaign speeches at a minority-dominated area, Mr. Preetham Gowda had said that JD(S) party patriarch H.D. Deve Gowda had been in touch with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and claimed that "voting for the JD(S) is nothing but voting for the BJP", implying a probable alliance between the two parties after the polls. "All rivers must end up in the sea," he had said. His statement had not gone down well with leaders of his own party, let alone JD(S) leaders.

Political observers of Hassan believe that the recent developments vindicate Mr. Preetham Gowda. However, Mr. Preetham Gowda is now not too pleased with the alliance but said that he would support the alliance if the goal was to re-elect Mr. Modi as Prime Minister, rather than to bolster the JD(S).

MLC's ire against scribes

There is no surprise in legislators holding meetings with officials by keeping mediapersons away. But Mangaluru mediapersons were surprised to find journalist-turned-MLC Tejaswini Gowda also questioning the presence of journalists during her recent visit to places in Mangaluru as part of the Legislative Council's Assurance Committee.

The first visit of the committee on September 7 was to inspect the road between Kuloor bridge and Mangalore Special Economic Zone, which is proposed for widening. As officials and Assurance Committee Chairman B.M Farooq and other members were discussing the proposal, a few reporters took pictures and videos. Ms. Gowda questioned the reporters and said the latter were not authorised to take pictures and videos of the discussion. Mr. Farooq intervened and said he had invited reporters and there is no problem in reporters taking note of deliberations happening on the road.

The committee then visited the administrative block of HPCL LPG Import Facility where there was a presentation about HPCL's new LPG cavern. As the presentation was on, Ms. Gowda noticed reporters and again expressed her reservation and asked district officials to send reporters out of the conference hall. But reporters stayed back in the hall throughout the presentation, as Mr. Farooq had called reporters and other MLCs did not object.

What prompted Ms. Gowda, who has spent a good number years as a television journalist, to show her dislike to fellow members of the fraternity she worked with earlier, remains unknown.

Sathish G.T.
Raghava M.

Dept. asked to freshly calculate minimum wages for 10 scheduled employments

Cost of food, clothes, and shelter has to be factored into the calculations for revision of minimum wages, say labour unions

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

In what is being seen as a positive signal in fixing minimum wages on scientific basis in the current revision cycle, the State government has sent back a proposal by the Labour Department to enhance minimum wages for 10 scheduled employments and asked the wages to be revised on a more rational basis.

While the minimum wages for 38 scheduled employments have already been notified in 2022-2023, the revised minimum wages for 10 scheduled employment is pending before the new Congress government for notification. Labour Minister Santosh Lad confirmed the development and said that he had asked for a scientific revision of wages. "Labour cannot be cheap. I have asked the department officials to come up with fresh calculations," he told *The Hindu*.

In Karnataka, to the already existing 83 scheduled employments, 22 were added in 2019, taking the total to 105 that covers close to about 2 crore workers.

In Karnataka, to the already existing 83 scheduled employments, 22 were added in 2019, taking the total to 105 that covers close to about 2 crore workers. SPECIALARRANGEMENT

The minimum wages were fixed in 2017-2018 to 83 scheduled employments in Karnataka, and as per law these are to be revised at least once in five years.

Labour unions' stand

The revision of minimum wages to 38 of the scheduled employments in 2022-23, however, had been criticised by trade unions. While the 2017-2018 fixation of minimum wages was based on a ground-level survey at 16 centres across Karnataka, the State notified 5% to 10% hike on the wages, including the variable dearness allowance, without such a survey to assess inflation-related price rise in 2022-23.

The unions had opposed the calculations and sought the revision based on the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in the Reptakos Brett case.

Landmark SC judgment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court laid down the calculation for minimum wages in the Reptakos Brett case in 1992. The calculation is based on - one earner for three consumption units; a minimum food requirement based on 2,700 calories per average adult; 72 yards of clothing per year; rent corresponding to the government industrial area housing scheme; 20% of minimum wages to consider for fuel, lighting and miscellaneous; 25% of the minimum wages towards children's education, medical expenses, minimum recreation such as festivals/ ceremonies, provision for old age, marriage, etc.

The officials pointed out that the ground survey had not been possible owing to the pandemic and also in anticipation of the Labour Code coming into effect.

The department officials had argued that during the revision of the minimum wages in 2017-2018, the government followed the court guidelines in the Reptakos Brett case to bring uniformity in minimum wages.

Since the 2022-2023 process is to only revise the wages, there was no need to follow the guidelines again, the officials had argued.

After the government notified the revision of minimum wages in 38 scheduled employment, the unions approached the High Court for relief.

"The cost of food, clothes, and shelter has to be factored in the calculations for revision of minimum wages. The Reptakos Brett case should form the basis for calculations. Surveys should be conducted to ascertain ground realities. The government-notified minimum wages for 38 scheduled employments was arbitrary," All-India Trade Union Congress Karnataka secretary M. Satyanand said.

Cost of meat

He welcomed the government's decision of asking the department to rework the wage calculations, in the case of the 10 scheduled employments yet to be notified.

"Meat that is part of the diet of a large number of households has not been considered for calculating minimum wages. This should be considered in this revision."

Meanwhile, in a recent reply to a RTI query, the Labour Department has said that it will be following the guidelines fixed by the court in the Reptakos Brett case while fixing minimum wages to the 22 new employments added to the schedule since 2019.

Poll pact: JD(S) Muslim leaders to take call on political future after district-level interactions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With Muslim leaders in the Janata Dal (Secular) having become restive after the formal announcement of the party's entry into the BJP-led NDA, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's reference to Muslims not supporting the party in the recent Assembly elections, has also come under focus.

While the party's vice-president Syed Shafiulla has already tendered his resignation against the decision to ally with the BJP, the party's community leaders, who met here on Sunday, have decided to hold consultations at the district-level and meet again in Bengaluru after 10 days to decide on the future course of action.

Multiple sources in the party acknowledged that the Muslim leaders are under pressure from the community and workers to sever ties after the alliance was formalised.

Though the Congress is being seen as a natural alternative political forum for those wishing to quit the JD (S), some are also wary of the move as they have remained in the Janata Parivar since the 80s opposing the Congress or the positions that they could get in the Congress. Party sources indicated that the leadership is likely to meet the Muslim leaders to explain the party's situation to ally with the BJP and attempt to iron out the differences. Nikhil Kumaraswamy, party's youth wing president and son of Mr. Kumaraswamy, however, refused to comment on the development.

"The Muslim community's focus was to keep the BJP out of power after a series of hatred-filled moves by the BJP government. The community feared that the vote division between the Congress and the JD(S) would help the BJP. While it is true that the community supported the Congress in a big way, it has also stood behind the JD(S) candidates wherever it stood a chance to win. It is not right to blame the community that had been pushed to the wall and was anxious. It also did not believe the party completely given its previous government in 2006-2007 and the BJP's B team tag," a Muslim leader in the JD(S) felt.

He further argued: "The community stood behind the JD(S) candidates in several constituencies. Mr. Kumaraswamy won in Channapatna because of Muslim votes. In fact, the Vokkaligas, who are the mainstay of the party, have not stood behind the party unitedly."

Sources pointed out constituencies in Tumakuru, Raichur, Yadgir, Hassan, and Shivamogga districts among others, where the Muslim community supported the JD(S).

Party president C.M. Ibrahim too had expressed his misgivings and had advised the leadership to delay the announcement. "Soon after the elections, we knew Mr. Kumaraswamy was unhappy that the community did not support despite the outreach. However, we were hoping that former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda would not agree to the alliance with the BJP," another source said.

Meanwhile, Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, who quit the JD(S) to join the Congress, said that Mr. Kumaraswamy had sacrificed the ideology of his father, and termed his statement as an insult to Muslims.

"The JD(S) got 19 seats only owing to the support of Muslims or else it would have ended up with five or six. Just to go with the BJP, he should not have said that Muslims did not vote for the party," he said.

Nikhil Kumaraswamy meets Yediyurappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Janata Dal (Secular) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy on Sunday paid a courtesy call on former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa. The meeting came after the JD(S) and the BJP announced a formal alliance before the Lok Sabha elections.

Sources said that strategies to defeat the Congress jointly were also discussed. Later, speaking to presspersons, he said the alliance has been entered into in the interest of the State.

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Any person/s company/s financial Institution /s Bank/s (except Sree Sreekanteshwara Credit Co-operative Society Limited, Malleshwaram, Bangalore), Firms, etc., having any objection or claim for the proposed purchase or having any right, title, claim, interest or charge over the schedule property or any part thereof may contact or lodge such claim or objection in writing with supporting documents with the undersigned **within fifteen days** form the date of publication failing which it will be presumed that there exists no any valid claim or objection or charge or any kind of encumbrance whatsoever over the schedule property and my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction. any claim, charge or objection received thereafter shall not be entertained and shall be deemed to have been waived to the said intents and purposes.

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JAWAHARLAL JAIN, Advocate
1/1, 1st Floor, Maramma Temple Street, Rangaswamy Temple Street, 1st Cross, Bangalore - 560053, Mob: 7975229913, 9480187650.

Bangalore
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District-level Janata Darshan across Karnataka to be launched today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

For the first time in the State, the Janata Darshan that was restricted to Bengaluru, will be extended to district headquarters throughout the State from Monday.

The event will be held in the presence of the District in-charge Ministers and district-level officials of all departments will be present.

A coordination will established between the departments to address grievances of people, a release said. After the district-level Janata Darshans, a similar meetings will be held at taluk levels.

The grievances of people will be recorded in the integrated public grievance redressal system, and grievances will be addressed in a time frame if it is not solved on the spot.

A release from the Chief Minister's Office said that the responsibility of the programme has been vested on Deputy Commissioners, Chief Executive Officers of zilla panchayats and district in-charge secretaries.

The aim is to accept petitions and try to find a solution to the problem on the spot, it added.

The release said that the instruction for State-wide Janata Darshan had been given by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah 10 days ago at the meeting of Deputy Commissioners and CEOs as people were approaching him for small things such as caste certificates, khata transfer, transformer repairs and installation of electricity poles.

He had asked the officials what was the use of them working in districts if people were approaching him, the release said.

IN THE COURT OF FAMILY JUDGE, Thanjavur

H.M.O.P. No. 39/2023
D. Balamurugan -- Petitioner
Vs
B.Dhivya, W/o. D. Balamurugan
D/o. M.M.Sekaran,
G02, E Block, Confident Atik,
Sampurnanand Gate,
Sarjapura, Hobli, Bangalore
-- Respondent

Public Notice

Take notice that the above application filed by the petitioner as against the respondent for Restitution of Conjugal Rights is numbered as HMOP No. 39/2023. On several occasion and several mode the notice to the respondent not yet served. Hence the order of Hon'ble court this publication has been effected. The said case is posted on 17.10.2023 for appearance of respondent, Be present before the said court on 17.l0.2023 at about 10.30 am without fail. Otherwise the petition will be set exparte as against you.

S. THENMOZHI,B.Sc., B.Ed., BL.,
Advocate Notary
Plot No. 28, S.N.M. Mohanaram Nagar,
Tholkapiar Square, Thanjavur,
Cell : 9443972820

Why pet owners still struggle to find acceptance within their communities

The Karnataka Animal Welfare Board and animal rights activists are attempting to promote more positive attitudes, though it appears to be an ongoing challenge

Suhasini Sathyanarayan
BENGALURU

Nisha Sitaraman, 29, lives with her two-year-old Beagle, named Prince, in a small house in Richmond Town, Bengaluru. She takes the lift every evening to walk her dog around the area. Nobody complains about her dog using the lift or bothers her about Prince yelping excitedly in the corridors. For her, this is a first.

Bitter experience

"I used to live in an upscale apartment building in Jayanagar where people complained about my dogs in the apartment. There was a small group of people who did not like dogs," she said, adding that dogs weren't even allowed in the common area. "If a dog urinates once in the hallway, they never let it go. They think every dog is going to do the same thing all the time," she said.

Technically, however, apartment Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) cannot make a fuss about people choosing to share a home with an animal. In 2020, the Karnataka state government issued strict guidelines that banned RWAs from enforcing rules that discriminated against pets or pet owners. Unfortunately, most apartment associations choose to disregard these guidelines.

Arun Prasad, a city-based animal rights activist, agreed that RWAs continue to bully and harass pet owners, despite these guidelines. Every week, he receives multiple complaints from residents across the city who are targeted by their neighbours for having pets, especially if the pet is a dog. "Anti-dog policies cannot be implemented as bylaws within the apartment," said Mr. Prasad, adding that in cases like these, notices are issued to apartment associations, warning them against such behaviour, and their bylaws are struck down.

The other side

Venugopal Rai, the president of the Kasturi Nagar RWA, firmly maintained that they abided by all the regulations set by the state. They have no authority to impose restrictions on pet owners, he said. "Neighbours complain all the time about pet dogs. We can't take any action against them. We don't. All we can do is advice them and tell them about the rules."

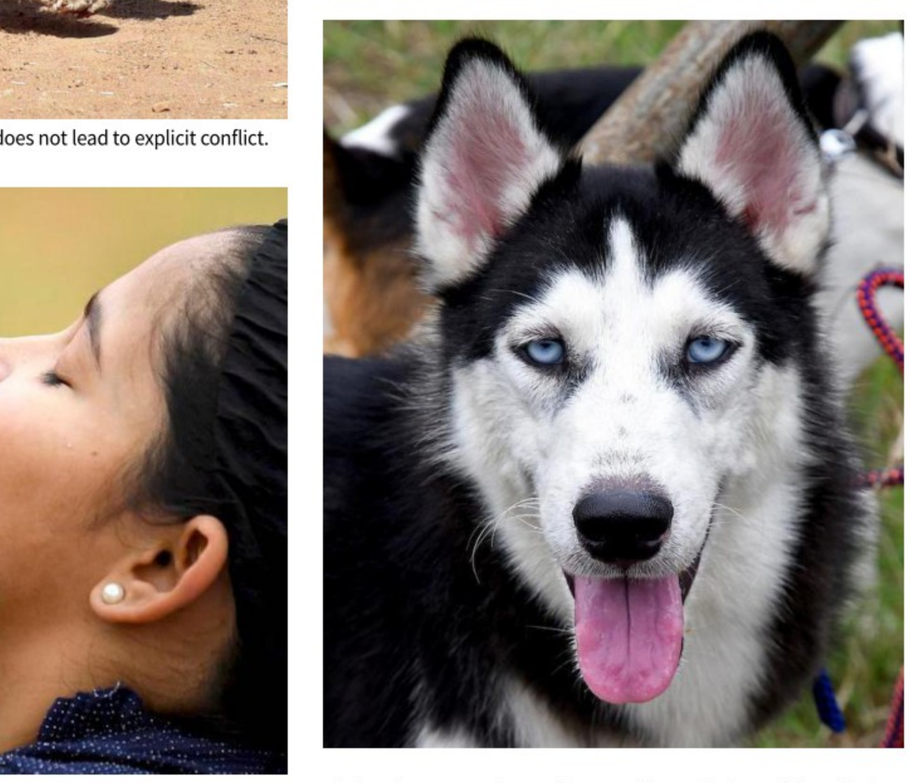
In many communities, irrespective of the norms, the bias against pets and pet owners continues, even if it does not lead to explicit conflict.

To help change the outlook of the people, N. Khetty asserted that pet owners should be sympathetic towards people who are afraid of animals and reasonably worried about cleanliness in their premises, and ensure that their pets are well-behaved. "The guidelines are almost too liberal towards pet owners. It should emphasise that the owner is given the responsibility of looking after their pet. The fear that other residents have should be addressed," he said.

Though every residential area is supposed to follow the guidelines, the rules are rarely enforced uniformly. "The guidelines don't offer any legal remedies to pet owners. They cannot be easily enforced. You have to understand that these are social issues and legal action can't always be taken," said N. Khetty.

Not so neighbourly

Asha Das, 31, who lived in an apartment with her husband and Casey, her Labrador Retriever, recalled the covert resistance against her dog that she encountered from her neighbours. "Casey was a rescue dog we adopted during tough times. He's quite shy and doesn't bother anyone, " she said. Her neighbours, however, were afraid of him. "Nobody ever complained to our faces, but we could tell we were not wanted," recalled Ms. Das, who eventually decided that the place was too small for other families and moved in with her parents. Every pet owner seeks a friendly, accepting community, but that is rarely the case in Bengaluru. Though the Karnataka Animal Welfare Board and animal rights activists are attempting to promote more positive attitudes, it appears to be an ongoing battle.



Varied experiences

As Nisha found out, different pet owners have different experiences in Bengaluru, since the acceptance that a pet owner finds in a community is completely determined by the people of that community.

"The pet friendliness of a place depends on the people there not so much what the guidelines are. If they are accepting, or if there are a lot of pet owners, then you're going to have a pleasant experience," she said, pointing out it is especially bad for people who keep more than one dog or who have a very large one. In many communities, irrespective of the norms, the bias against pets and pet owners continues, even if it does not lead to explicit conflict. Instead, "It will seem like most people, including your neighbours, are just tolerating you," she says.

First batch of IIM-B's hospital management course passes out

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IIM-Bangalore celebrated completion and valedictory of the first batch of learners of the 1-year Professional Certificate in Hospital Management programme. More than 100 healthcare professionals received their certificates from Dr. Devi Shetty, who was the chief guest for the function.

In his address, Dr. Shetty appreciated the healthcare professionals in the programme for embarking on this journey towards skill enhancement, said a release from IIM-B.

While emphasizing on the need for professional development for healthcare professionals, he said that it is the need of the hour as the future healthcare industry in India will be dramatically different, and courses like this would equip them for this change and enable to administer hospitals in a smooth and efficient manner. He also emphasized the need for synergy between the stakeholders in healthcare delivery, especially hospitals, health insurance companies and patient, said a release from the institution.

Rishikesha T. Krishnan, Director IIM Bangalore, complimented the learners on their perseverance and completion of the programme. P.D. Jose, Professor of Strategy IIMB, highlighted the importance of strong leadership to guide institutions. He also touched upon the correlation of leadership through influence and impact along with empathy and trust.

Haritha Saranga, Professor of Production and Operations Management, reminded the learners that it was a great beginning for them equipped with the knowledge and skills they have absorbed through this program.

The Hospital Management program is a one-year programme delivered by IIMBx, the digital learning initiative of IIM Bangalore. The second batch of this programme was launched on July 1, 2023, by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao and has close to 100 learners enrolled in it, said the release.

Readable in one sitting – and other issues

The novella isn't a modern invention – it has existed since the 14th century

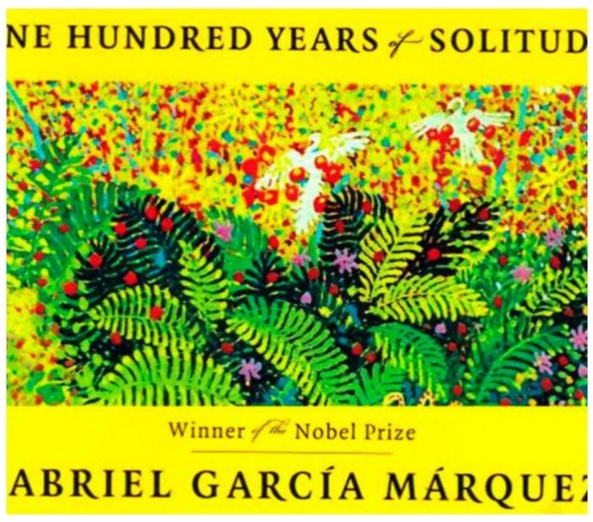
ABOUT 500 WORDS

Suresh Menon

Vivek Shanbhag's *Ghachar Ghochar* is possibly the finest novella of recent times. It takes fewer words to say what novels take twice or three times as many and fail to do. Concision, control, and constraint are the hallmarks of the literary form, and some of the greatest books - from Orwell's *Animal Farm* to Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* - use the format.

Yet, it is not fashionable, nor is it popular with publishers who think it falls into a chasm between the short story and the novel. Mathematical definitions are not of much help - a novella could be anywhere from ten thousand to forty thousand words. Edgar Allan Poe caught the spirit best when he said it is a creation that is "readable in one sitting." Ian McEwan calls it "the perfect form of prose fiction."

Not everyone agrees. Stephen King, who has written novellas himself has called it "an ill-defined and disreputable literary banana republic."



Of late I have been picking up novellas by writers I haven't read in fiction before. Elena Ferrante, for example. *Her Troubling Love*, translated in 2006, is about 124 pages. I was enticed by the review in the New York Times which said: "It's a smelly book. If Nabokov writes from the eye and Hemingway the mouth and stomach (you want to call room service and then find a gym), Ferrante is one of the few nose writers." No, I don't know what that means either.

To present a narrative in as few words as possible, with character and intent being drawn with light touches calls for skills quite distinct from the demands of a large novel or a slice-of-life short story.

What is left unsaid is then as important, maybe even more so than what is spelt out.

The novella isn't a modern invention - it has existed since the 14th century when Bocaccio's Decameron had stories within stories that were called novellas. It is a pathway towards first meeting and enjoying some of our greatest writers. A good introduction to Thomas Mann, for example, is *Death in Venice*. Albert Camus can introduce himself to a reader through *The Stranger*, Voltaire through *Candide*, Joyce through *The Dead*, and so on. Marquez thought his novella No One Writes to the Colonel Anymore was his best work, and once said that he wrote O*ne Hundred Years of Solitude* just so we would read the shorter book!

While novellas conjure up fiction, short-form nonfiction has to go by the generic name. But books like William Strunk's The Elements of Style, Virginia Woolf's *A Room of One's Own*, Jean Dominique Bauby's *The Diving Bell* and *The Butterfly*, Isaiah Berlin's *The Hedgehog* and the *Fox*, Marquez's Clandestine in *Chile*, some of them extended essays, might qualify. Each is complete, standing by itself which is a serviceable definition of the non-fiction version of the novella.

Berlin's book tells us something important about both Tolstoy and the genre. That, while the novella is fiction, writing about fiction is nonfiction.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 25, 1973

Mysore to get 2,000 Tonnes of Rice from Tamil Nadu

Bangalore, Sept. 24: The Chief Minister of Mysore, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, announced in the State Assembly here to-day, that Tamil Nadu had agreed to give Mysore 2,000 tonnes of rice and 1,000 tonnes of ragi in exchange for 30 million units of electricity from Mysore depending on its availability.

The Chief Minister appreciated the gesture of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, in agreeing to the barter deal and told the House that he had been requesting Tamil Nadu to let Mysore have another 1,000 tonnes of broken rice. In a statement on the food situation in the State, Chief Minister said that he had just had a telephonic talk with the Mysore Food Minister, Mrs. Eva Vaz, now in Madras, for getting food assistance from Tamil Nadu.

Renewed student violence in Bangalore

Bangalore, Sept. 24: Student violence erupted in the city to-day after a lull of 11 days. Two buses belonging to the Bangalore Transport Service, a car, and a van were set on fire by the agitators.

At about 11.30 in the morning, when the Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, was passing near the R.C. College, some students pelted stones at the police car which was escorting him. The glass panes of the escort car were badly smashed. However, the Chief Minister's car passed without being hit.

CITYBEATS

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Coffee and its avatars

30 SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2
Maverick & Farmer marks International Coffee Day with a three-day experiential celebration – a mixology experience, workshops, barista championships, live acoustic performances and an exclusive menu.
At Maverick & Farmer, Ulsoor and Koramangala, from 8.30am to 11pm.

On love and the pain of separation

Author Sarbpreet Singh discusses Sufi poetry, translations and the work involved in penning a hagiography

Ruth Priyadarshini Dhanaraj

Diving love Author Sarbpreet Singh (centre) in conversation with Chiranjiv Singh and Soni Wadhwa. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Author Sarbpreet Singh who was recently in the city to launch his latest book *The Sufi's Nightingale*, was joined by Chiranjiv Singh, former Ambassador of India to UNESCO and archivist Soni Wadhwa, at the Bangalore International Centre. Together, they explored various facets of the book, and most notably its focus on love, devotion and the divine.

Shah Hussain was a Sufi poet who lived in Lahore during the reign of Akbar. He was also a well-established Muslim scholar whose discourses were highly sought after. After an epiphany, he embraced the life of a *malamati*, or one who believes that by courting contempt, one rose above temptation and reached an enlightened spiritual state. His behaviour and that of his followers were deemed scandalous until the miracles associated with them began to take place.

One day, Shah Hussain saw a young boy called Madho Lal and fell irrevocably in love with him. Theirs was a love which transcended all labels or distinctions and eventually he came to be known as Madho Lal Hussain.

This was in the late 1500s and their love story has passed into the annals of history. Many miracles are associated with Shah Hussain and while he may not be well known in South India, his shrine is still the focal point of the Mela Chiraghan or Festival of Lights, the biggest festival in Punjab, and is venerated by Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus alike.

Emperor Jehangir had asked for a record to be made of Shah Hussain's teachings and though that record has now been lost to time, the teachings were passed on word of mouth, becoming an intrinsic part of common knowledge in Punjab.

According to Sarbpreet Singh, the lack of recorded history on the life of this Sufi saint, led him to pen *The Sufi's Nightingale* as a work of fictionalised history. However, he admits to drawing heavily on lore and his own experiences in his quest to learn more about the mystic. Selected excerpts:

Soni: What role does research and history play in works like these?

Sarbpreet: When we write history, who we read and what our perspective is, is fundamentally important. Though this is a work of fiction, it is deeply researched. I don't ignore Western scholarship, but my goal has been to uncover traditional texts and *Janamsakhis* or birth stories built on Sikh oral tradition.

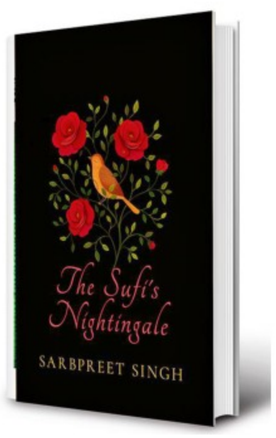
There are magnificent poetic writings, mostly in Braj Bhasha, that tell the story of the Sikh Gurus with great richness and imagination. Trying to access a lot of these sources by writing history or by extension, historical fiction is tremendously important to me.

My original impulse was to write a biography of Shah Hussain, but when I found recorded material for research was scanty, I decided to take what I discovered and use it as a skeleton, filling in the rest with my imagination. Throughout my journey, the one thing that was always in focus was this relationship between Shah and Madho and how it was interpreted by modern scholars.

There are people who will say, "This is not history". Well, I'm not a historian, I'm a storyteller. So I'm happy to take those liberties and bring the richness of these sources to the reader.

The best books I've ever read are Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, Marquez's *100 Years of Solitude* and *Tin Drum* by Gunter Grass. Magic realism is something that's very close to my heart and this subject gave me the opportunity to play with that.

Commonality binds stories, but individual experiences influence how we approach these stories and how we engage with them



Chiranjiv: Shah Hussain's *kafis* are part of the fabric of Punjabi culture on both sides of the border. Would you say that the lesson from their life is that nothing else matters except love as it is love that takes you to spiritual heights?

Sarbpreet: This book is about many things, But more than anything else, it's about the transcendence and triumph of love. The poetry of Shah Hussain flows beautifully and one thing that comes through is the exquisite manner in which the pain of separation is expressed.

His *kafis* were written to be sung and the legend of Heer and Ranjha feature prominently in his work. As with a lot of devotional poetry from the Indian subcontinent, Shah wrote in the feminine voice representing the devotee, addressing the Divine as masculine.

Hurdles in their love story have come to represent an oppressive society; that is how Shah Hussain structures a lot of his *kafis*.

Chiranjiv: What was your experience when you were writing the book?

Sarbpreet: In early 2020, I was in Lahore for a conference. From the start, the visit was filled with warmth and positivity – right from the immigration official to the people I met who knew nothing about me or my books.

All they say about the welcoming nature of Pakistanis towards Indians is true, and it apparently holds good, when they visit our country too, which tells me that if the common people of India and Pakistan met more often, things would be very different between our countries.

On my last day in Lahore, just before I was going to visit the dargah of Shah Hussain, I was encouraged to go there with the intention of asking for permission to write about it. My experience there had me believe that permission had been granted and in the next three or four months, the book pretty much wrote itself.

Soni: There's only one kind of story in the world – it's either a love story or a devotional story and it's amazing how both converge whenever we talk about how love is God and God is love. Isn't every love story essentially the same?

Sarbpreet: There is a lot of commonality that binds these stories together, but I do believe that our individual experiences are also tremendously important and they in great part influence how we approach these stories and how we engage with them.

Chiranjiv: A character in the book says, "Are not the joys of this life created by Allah as well. Why do you condemn them so? What use is all this knowledge and scholarship if our lives are joyless?". Would you say that this is the key to the character of Shah Hussain and Madho Lal?

Sarbpreet: Shah Hussain hailed from a socially disadvantaged Muslim family, and when he is quite young, through the blessing of a master he becomes an Islamic scholar. He's destined for greatness and while immersed in studies, he has this epiphany when his master is explaining a particular verse from the Quran.

He realises everything in the world is created by God and that is the moment it is said he gave up his Islamic Studies, put on red robes, shaved off his beard, and is seen singing and dancing wantonly in the streets of Lahore, all sacrilegious for a man of god.

He embraced the path of the *malawati* – courting the contempt of the world because that's the only way to keep your ego in check. Though his lifestyle seemed to embrace the frivolous, he is locked in a struggle with his ego which surfaces at unexpected times. Since he was a weaver by trade, a lot of his *kafis* use tropes from weaving.

Trying to translate poetry from one language to another is difficult. When it comes to spiritual poetry it becomes 10 times more challenging. So I've tried to convey a little bit of the essence of the original in my translations, but I would urge those who can engage with the original to do so simply because it is not just beautiful, it's luminous.

Driven by twists and turns

Shilpa Anandraj

The low-profile Rakshit Shetty film *Simple Agi Ondh Love Story*, became one of the most talked about films, when it hit the screens in 2013. And the word 'simple' became a permanent prefix for the film's director and producer Sunil Kumar, or Simple Suni as he came to be known. The man, who had written the story and screenplay for the film, once again proved his mettle with words when he wrote the lyrics for another critically acclaimed film, *Ulidavaru Khandante*, again featuring Rakshit.

Then, there was no looking back for Suni, who went on to give commercial hits with films such as *Operation Alamellamma* (with Rishi and Shraddha Srinath). He also started his own production house, Suni Cinemas, and produced *Simple agi... Ulidaravu...* and *Bahuparak*.

Now, the director has plunged into directing and producing a television series, with Udaya TV's social thriller *Shambhavi*. The man, who started off by assisting director Dinesh Baboo, says he was lured to direct *Shambhavi* by the powerful plot, twists and turns, the storyline had.

"It is not a just a social thriller, but also talks ofi faith and deep, emotional familial connections."

Riveting fare Simple Suni, and (below) a still from the series
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It is not a just a social thriller, but also talks of faith and deep, emotional familial connections

The plot revolves around a child, Shambhavi. Born to a billionaire mother and poor school teacher, the story takes the viewers through their journey of challenges, leaving you guessing if the girl's father is truly what he portrays or if he has a dark past, leading to the mother's mental breakdown and leaving the child to lean heavily on divine intervention.

Suni, who is racing to complete his Kannada film *Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe* with Vinay Rajkumar and awaiting the release of *Avathara Purusha 2*, says the series gives you the time to live in the moment a bit longer. "As people watch it every day and invest in the characters, we can also bring in events that are associated with day-to-day household activities."

He adds that while the audience is driven to watch a film by factors such as the actor, director and production house, when it comes to a series, it is the popular faces on the small screen that captivates the audience, more than the banner or the name of a director. And of course the storyline, which has to keep them hooked week after week.

The series will appeal to families, specifically women and children, says Suni. "Baby Rachana TB plays the titular role, and is joined by Aishwarya Sindhogi, Harish TV, Vinay Gowda, Ambujakshi, Dali Rajesh, Surya Kundapura and Rohith Nayak."

Shambhavi airs from Monday to Saturday at 7.30 pm on Udaya TV

Bee-ing true Rajani Mani's documentary is an eye opener.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Honey bees buzz for the planet

Shilpa Nair Anand

Bengaluru-based Rajani Mani, who was in Kochi for the screening of the documentary at Studio Mirablis, says, "I didn't know enough about bees to provide a solution," she says.

The common 'solution' usually is spraying pesticide and lopping off the hive which resulted in the bees dying and "the traumatic sight of tens of thousands of bees literally dropping dead!" It led her to search for information, of which she found nothing. "I thought there would be enough information to share. But there was nothing. There is only a limited understanding of bees. They are tolerated more, as pollinators."

Curious, over time, she began her own research into the subject which included, besides reading, speaking to scientists, ecologists, taxonomists, and biologists. This was in late 2018. The making of the documentary got underway in the latter part of 2019. Rajani who stays in Whitefield, not only shot *Colonies* there, but also captured the lives of bees in JP Nagar, Yelahanka, Kanakpura and Hebbal, in the city.

> This is a local story with global consequences due to a depleting bee population in the world.
>
> **RAJANI MANI**
> Documentary filmmaker

The pandemic slowed down work, but gave Rajani the time to be contemplative. She got to meet the characters pivotal to taking the narrative forward including Venkat, who cuts down beehives built on highrises and Pranitha, through whom we see the 'story' develop. The effect of the pandemic reflected in the behaviour of the bees. The camera follows the journey of these migratory bees, found in south and south east Asia, from the urban landscape to the forests and the farms where they are perceived differently. It opens our eyes to the fact that bees also bear the consequences of pollution, pesticides and intensive agriculture.

The film, ready in 2022, was screened in May that year. She refers to the film as a 'local story with global consequences' due to the depleting bee population across the world.

The film premiered in 2022 at the Wildlife Film Festival, Rotterdam, winning the Best Independent Production Award.

The documentary filmmaker is also the co-founder of Elephant Corridor Films.

K.G. George, famed Malayalam director, passes away at 77

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

K.G. George

Veteran Malayalam filmmaker K.G. George, 77, passed away at an old age home in Kakkanad on the outskirts of Kochi on Sunday.

He was born in Pathanamthitta in 1946 and went on to complete a diploma at the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune.

He made a series of critically acclaimed films during his nearly three-decade-long career, winning several Kerala State film awards and the J.C. Daniel Prize instituted by the Kerala government.

His debut as a director, *Swapnadanam*, was a commercial success and critical achievement. He broke away constantly from the tried and tested song-and-dance sequences to discuss problems confronted in daily life.

Though he was active in the industry only for just over two decades, he left behind a bunch of films which are counted among the classics of Malayalam cinema, right from the investigative thriller *Yavanika* (1982) to the political satire *Panchavadi Palam* (1984) and the psychological thriller *Irakal* (1985), all of which still continue to inspire new-age filmmakers. Through *Lekhayude Maranam Oru Flashback*, based loosely on the circumstances that led to the death of actor Shoba, he had an inward look at the industry too.

He was initially an assistant to Ramu Kariatt and went on to be part of the breakaway trio with Bharathan and P. Padmarajan.

As a founder of new school of cinema narrative, *Yavanika* and *Irakal* along with *Panchavadi Palam* and *Aadaminte Variyellu*, established him among the all-time great directors.

He is survived by his wife, playback singer Salma, and two children.

Women in his cinema were not just admiring sidekicks of the hero or victims waiting to be saved but had agency. But then, the feminist gaze in his cinema is just one aspect of his oeuvre, which would always be remembered for the rawness and complexity of the lives that he depicted and the sheer variety of the themes he handled.

Neither George nor his characters reduced progressive ideas to mere slogans, but these were always present as a subtext in his films. On that count, he was really the unassuming revolutionary in Malayalam cinema.

(With inputs from S.R. Praveen)

Amid rift with BJP's T.N. unit, EPS to chair meeting today

The AIADMK has declared that the BJP is no longer its ally, while BJP State president K. Annamalai has said there was no rift between the two parties

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A file photo of AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

The AIADMK has called for the meeting with its headquarters functionaries, district secretaries MPs and MLAs on Monday.

The meeting will be chaired by general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami at the party headquarters in Chennai, according to a press release.

Meanwhile, AIADMK's organisation secretary and former Minister D. Jayakumar said there was no change in the party's stance that the BJP was no longer an ally of his party.

"There is no change of opinion on the announcement made on September 18 that the BJP is no longer an ally of the AIADMK. I don't want to make any further comments before tomorrow's meeting. Let us wait and watch," he told reporters on Sunday.

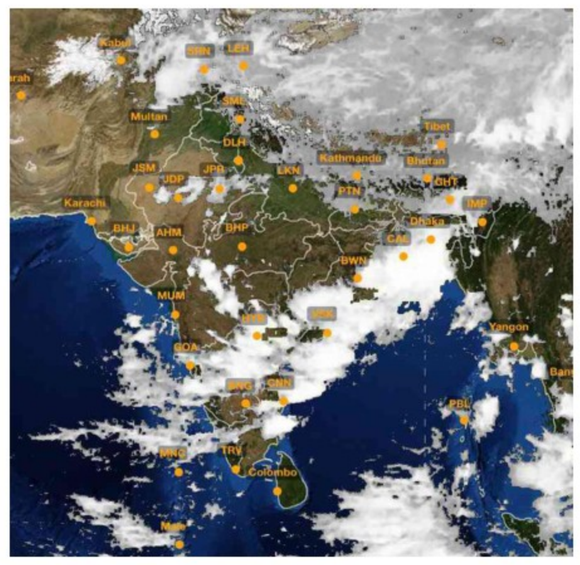
The meeting announcement comes amid a friction between AIADMK and BJP State president K. Annamalai.

The AIADMK has declared that the BJP is no longer its ally, while Mr. Annamalai has said there was no rift between the two parties.

A delegation of former AIADMK Ministers, including M. Thambi Durai, S.P. Velumani, P. Thangamani, K.P. Munusamy, Natham R. Viswanthan and C.V. Shanmugam met BJP's national president J.P. Nadda on Friday and briefed him on the state of ties with the Tamil Nadu unit of the national party.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Light/moderate fairly widespread to widespread rainfall/thunderstorm and lightning with isolated heavy rainfall very likely over Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Konkan, Goa and Gujarat.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	22.0	34.1	24.1	Kozhikode	27.0	29.9	24.4
Ahmedabad	—	34.0	27.2	Kurnool	0.1	31.7	24.6
Aizawl	—	33.6	20.9	Lucknow	—	33.0	25.6
Allahabad	—	33.6	26.5	Madurai	5.0	37.2	24.5
Bengaluru	3.0	30.5	19.8	Mangaluru	69.0	29.2	22.8
Bhopal	0.1	33.1	23.0	Mumbai	—	29.0	24.0
Bhubaneswar	17.0	31.8	25.2	Mysuru	—	30.0	22.0
Chandigarh	4.6	32.0	22.9	New Delhi	15.3	36.0	23.0
Chennai	3.0	36.5	25.5	Patna	63.0	28.0	25.0
Coimbatore	—	32.4	23.2	Port Blair	22.0	28.0	24.4
Dehradun	—	30.9	21.6	Puducherry	—	36.0	25.0
Gangtok	33.0	22.8	18.4	Pune	20.5	32.0	23.0
Goa	17.4	28.6	23.6	Raipur	4.2	25.0	29.0
Guwahati	2.0	33.2	24.0	Ranchi	—	23.0	30.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	22.0	Shillong	0.2	17.0	26.0
Hyderabad	—	29.6	22.7	Shimla	3.0	18.0	28.0
Imphal	—	31.7	20.7	Srinagar	—	12.0	27.0
Jaipur	7.0	33.7	23.8	Thiruvananthapuram	25.0	31.0	23.0
Kochi	19.0	29.6	24.0	Tiruchi	2.0	26.0	36.0
Kohima	—	25.4	17.8	Vijayawada	34.0	26.0	34.0
Kolkata	40.0	30.3	25.7	Visakhapatnam	3.0	27.0	32.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	21	—	104	120	
Bengaluru	7	12	31	103	91	
Chennai	4	69	40	16	29	
Delhi	—	28	28	237	—	
Hyderabad	13	18	38	44	77	
Kolkata	6	10	15	28	50	
Lucknow	20	10	8	25	34	
Mumbai	45	3	115	—	40	
Pune	131	216	110	32	28	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	—	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Meghalaya recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 205 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 18.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

244 held during drive against 'drug dealers'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A total of 244 persons were arrested across Kerala in the police's Operation D-Hunt special drive as part of a crackdown on drug dealers on Saturday.

MDMA, hashish oil, brown sugar and several kilograms of ganja estimated at several lakhs were seized from the arrested persons. Ahead of the drive, the police had cast a surveillance net on drug dealers and local-level distributor networks, before moving in to nab them.

The maximum number of persons were arrested from Kochi city – 61. The largest quantity of MDMA, 37.41 g, was seized from Kollam city while 22.85 g was seized from Thiruvananthapuram rural.

The police had checked 1,373 persons suspected of possessing drugs, out of which 244 were arrested.

TDP chief's remand extended till Oct. 5

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Court here extended the judicial remand of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party chief N. Chandrababu Naidu in the skill development scam case till October 5.

His two-day CID custody expired on Sunday. He is currently lodged in the Rajahmundry Central Jail

Meanwhile, the court is set to hear the interim and regular bail petitions filed by Mr. Naidu on Monday.

The CID will file a petition on Monday seeking an extension of Mr. Naidu's custody on the ground that it needs more time to extract information. He was arrested on September 9 for allegedly complicity in a skill development scam, which resulted in a purported loss of over ₹300 crore to the State.

'ED notice to Kavitha a BRS-BJP ploy to help KCR get sympathy'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

As a perception of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) working closely to defeat the Congress is getting stronger, Telangana Congress president Revanth Reddy, yet again, alleged that both the parties would "use BRS MLC Kavitha's role in the Delhi liquor policy case" to gain sympathy.

Mr. Reddy, who is in New Delhi for the Parliament sessions and the screening committee meeting of the Telangana Congress, reiterated his allegation that the recent notices to Ms. Kavitha by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) were nothing but a ploy to divert attention from the BJP-BRS political alliance in Telangana.

The Congress MP said that fresh notices served on Ms. Kavitha were an indication that they had designed a plan together to arrest her before the elections so that Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao "could go to people seeking sympathy". He said the BJP had realised that its stakes were falling rapidly in Telangana and its only effort now, was to stem the popularity of the Congress.

He found no reason for not arresting her a few months ago when she was called for questioning for three days in New Delhi. He said that as the ED postponed her arrest Ms. Kavitha went to the Supreme Court over the procedure adopted for questioning. In the meantime, the CM struck a compromise with the BJP, he said.

CDS in Karwar

Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan reviews the ongoing and upcoming infrastructure development projects under Project Seabird there during his visit to Karwar Naval Base, on Sunday. ANI

CWMA urged to find lasting solution to Cauvery issue

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

MLC also seeks 'impartial' report from hydrology experts drawn from outside the four riparian States

Dinesh Gooligowda, MLC, has urged the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to find a lasting solution to the sharing of the Cavery water in times of distress. He has also sought an "impartial" report from hydrology experts drawn from outside the four riparian States.

In a letter to the CWMA chairman, Mr. Gooligowda, who was elected from the Local Bodies' constituency from Mandya district, went into the details of the dispute and said that ever since the Supreme Court's order in 2018, the CWMA had not faced any difficulties for the release of Cauvery water from Karnataka following copious rainfall.

His letter drew attention to the drought in 2023 and said that people of Karnataka in the Cauvery basin were facing severe shortage of water as the monsoon had failed and pointed out that the rainfall deficiency in the Cauvery basin was 54%.

Mr. Gooligowda said while people of Karnataka are facing a difficult time, Tamil Nadu was putting pressure to ensure the release of Cauvery water as was being done in the normal-water years. Despite a severe water crisis, the Karnataka government was complying with the CWMA's order so far, he added.

Stating that the water shortage was the worst in 123 years, Mr. Gooligowda urged the CWMA chairman to take immediate stock of the water shortage in the State and appoint the committee of expert hydrologists and spell out a distress-sharing formula.

The MLC said the order of the CWMA to release water to Tamil Nadu had caused untold miseries to the people of the region, and the people of Mandya are facing the threat of water shortage in the coming days. ''Hence it was high time the CWMA comes out with a distress sharing formula for sharing of Cauvery water during deficit monsoon year," Mr. Gooligowda added.

School bags to be lighter from next year: Madhu Bangarappa

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The State government will reduce the volume of textbooks by about one-third, thus making school bags lighter from the academic year 2024-25, said Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa in Mangaluru on Sunday.

Speaking with reporters, Mr. Bangarappa said the government has worked out a way to drastically reduce the weight of the school bag. "There will be no change in the content, but the volume will be reduced," he said.

Holding three annual examinations for students of Class 10 and II Pre University from this academic year, Mr. Bangarappa said, would greatly reduce the stress on students as it would give them another opportunity to do well in the examinations and continue with higher education in the same year.

'Best scores considered'

"Yes, there will be more stress on teachers. I am okay with it insofar as it relieves students from the fear of failure." The best of the scores in the three examinations would be considered, he said.

Asked about the students losing out on admission to degree courses because of the time taken to complete the three examinations, Mr. Bangrappa said the government had clearly laid down the schedule of the three examinations.

"The schedule will be strictly followed. Colleges have been told to admit these students and conduct bridge courses for them," he said.

Under the proposed State Education Policy, the colleges would be made to provide necessary opportunities for these students, he added.

Team from Buddhavanam project visits Buddhist rock caves in Sri Lanka

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A Buddhavanam team consisting of Mallepalli Laxmaiah, Special Officer, and E. Sivanagireddy, Buddhist expert consultant, visited the third century BC Buddhist rock cut caves at Mathale on the Colombo-Kandy route in Sri Lanka on Sunday, where the teachings of Lord Buddha were scribbled for the first time on palm leaves.

Piece of history: Buddhavanam team from Telangana at the Buddhist rock-cut caves in Mathale, Sri Lanka. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Buddhavanam is a massive Buddhist heritage theme park developed by the Telangana government at Nagarjunasagar.

Mr. Laxmaiah said that the Buddha's teachings called Tripitaka – Sutr, Vinaya and Abhidhamma pitakas – which were transmitted orally until that time, were written on palm leaves under the auspices of Sri Lankan king Devanampiya Tissa, a contemporary of King Ashoka. He said that it was only after that event did Buddhist literature came into being in India.

Mr. Sivanagi Reddy, Buddhist expert consultant of the Buddhavanam Project, and archaeologist, said the rock-cut caves, the monastery and antiquities recovered from the surrounding areas shows the Buddhist connection between the two Telugu States and Sri Lanka. Later, Mr. Laxmaiah called on Venerable Gnanatilaka Mahathero, the Deputy Chief Monk of Mahavihara at Anuradhapura, and extended an invitation to him to visit Buddhavanam.

Politicising exchanges

China's denial of entry to Arunachal athletes shows up the distrust in ties

The Asian Games, which were opened on September 23 by Chinese President Xi Jinping in Hangzhou following a spectacular opening ceremony on a scale that has now come to be expected from China, are meant to showcase a broader message of Asian solidarity. The days leading up to the opening ceremony of the 19th edition were, however, marked by anything but. The day before the opening, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur cancelled his visit to China as a mark of protest to the last-minute denial of entry to three Indian Wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh. The three athletes – Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega and Mepung Lamgu – were given the accreditation needed to travel along with the rest of the Indian team for the Games. However, in what appears to be a directive issued to the airline by China, the athletes were told they could not board their flight. China has in the past issued stapled visas to Indians from Arunachal Pradesh. Only in July, three wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh, due to take part in the World University Games in Chengdu, were issued stapled visas. In this instance, the decision to bar the athletes appears particularly vindictive as visas were not needed to travel for athletes issued digital accreditations. Indian officials believe Beijing thus went out of its way to bar their travel by instructing the airline to not allow them to board. The Ministry of External Affairs in a statement described the action as "targeted and pre-meditated".

This is, unfortunately, not the first instance of Beijing using sporting events that should have no place for politics to score geopolitical points. In February last year, Beijing ill-advisedly selected the People's Liberation Army's commander involved in the Galwan Valley clash as one of the torchbearers for the Winter Olympics. Both then and now, the organisers have appeared more than happy to look the other way given China's status as both a willing host and strong financial backer of such events. The acting President of the Olympic Council of Asia, Randhir Singh, who met with President Xi in Hangzhou, in remarks to journalists chose not to call out the denial of entry to athletes, instead only saying the matter was being discussed. Beyond the Asian Games, the latest Chinese action serves as a reminder of the current distrust in bilateral relations, as well as of the absence of adequate channels of communication to deal with long-persisting thorny issues, including visas. New Delhi has correctly made clear that restoring normalcy in relations will not be possible without completing the disengagement process along the Line of Actual Control and restoring peace in border areas. Until Beijing reviews its stance on the border, the current state of affairs, which suits neither India nor China, is likely to endure.

Playing to the gallery

Parliament should not be turned into a forum for verbal abuse

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for a new chapter in parliamentary history, and exhorted members to "forget all past bitterness", as they moved into a shiny new building last week. "Whatever we are going to do in this new Parliament building, it should be an inspiration to every citizen in the country," he had said. Fittingly for a new beginning, Mr. Modi's government brought a Bill for reserving 33% seats for women in Parliament and State Assemblies. The proposal found near unanimous acceptance across the political spectrum, though some parties were concerned about the timeline for its implementation, and some wanted a carve out for Other Backward Classes. But this show of unity and purpose was soon overshadowed by incidents that lowered the majesty of the institution of parliament. A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament hurled toxic communal slurs at a fellow MP from the Muslim community even as some other senior leaders of the ruling party smiled on in the Lok Sabha during a discussion, of all things on the success of India's Chandrayaan mission, hardly a partisan issue. In the Rajya Sabha, visitors in the gallery reportedly raised political slogans in support of the government during the discussion on the women's reservation Bill, a singularly inappropriate method of credit appropriation.

The conduct of the BJP MP was condemnable but what compounds it is the party's overall approach that followed. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh who was present during the outrage did apologise to the House for the remarks. But soon after that, the party fielded several spokespersons to explain away the episode, and they accused the one who was at the receiving end of provoking the incident. An equivalence has also been sought between communal abuse against a fellow member and remarks allegedly made by some Opposition members about faith and the existence of god. The Lok Sabha Speaker who has in the past suspended Opposition members on charges of misconduct is expected to take a more serious view of this incident, and set out an example, making it clear that the House cannot condone communal slurs against any one, and certainly not a member. Several Opposition leaders have written to Rajya Sabha Chairman regarding sloganeering from the visitor's gallery. That episode too calls for exemplary punitive and preventive action. The new building must foster healthy dialogue among members, and between the institution and the people.

Simultaneous polls — but only in a presidential system

Prashant Bhushan

is a public interest advocate at the Supreme Court of India

A fresh attempt is being made by the Narendra Modi government to veer towards one nation-one poll, which would mean that all State elections are held simultaneously with the general election to the Lok Sabha. In order to kickstart this process, one would need to curtail the term of the Assemblies in several States, whose terms have not ended at the time the Lok Sabha election is to take place.

Options that are undemocratic

There is a deeper problem in implementing one nation-one poll. In the present parliamentary system of India's democracy, at both the central and State levels, since the survival of the government is dependent on its enjoying the confidence of the majority of the house (majorities can change mid-term because of splits in parties, defections or even if some Members of Parliament/Members of the Legislative Assemblies from the ruling party refusing to support the government) the government can fall mid-term thus leading to mid-term elections. However, in one nation-one poll you cannot have mid-term elections if the rest of the States and the Centre have to go to the polls together. Therefore, the only option would be to either continue with a minority government headed by a Chief Minister/Prime Minister who has lost the confidence of the House or to impose President's rule for the rest of the term. In my view, both these options would be undemocratic as it would mean that the government rules the Centre/States without enjoying the confidence of the majority of the House. This will defeat the essence of democracy in a parliamentary system.

Therefore, in my view, one nation-one poll is possible only if we switch to a presidential form of government where the government is run by a directly elected President/Governor who does not need to enjoy the confidence of the majority of the House. This happens in countries such as the United States. In those countries, there is also a clear line of succession laid down for the President/Governor. If the President dies mid-term, the Vice-President and thereafter the Speaker becomes the President for the remainder of the term. Such a presidential system can have one nation-one poll without compromising the essence of a democracy.

The issue of one nation-one poll has been examined by the Law Commission and some parliamentary committees as well and the conclusion was that it would be exceedingly difficult to implement it without substantial changes to the Constitution. There were some suggestions that one nation-one poll can happen even in a parliamentary democracy by ensuring that when a government loses the confidence of the majority of the House by a no-confidence motion, such a no-confidence motion must be accompanied with a confidence motion in an alternative government. This will ensure that some government or the other continues for the remainder of the term. However, the problem here is that the legislators may not have confidence in an alternative government if they feel that a substantial number of Members of the House have lost the confidence of the people. Therefore, the will of the people about the government can only be determined by fresh elections.

If one provides that a no-confidence motion has to be accompanied by a confidence motion in an alternate government, we may have a situation of a government continuing in office which effectively has lost the confidence of the majority of the members. It will not be able to pass legislation or even money Bills and finance Bills, without which it will become difficult to run the government. These suggestions are impractical if we continue with parliamentary democracy in a one nation-one poll system.

> The attempt being made by the government of the day to veer towards simultaneous elections will be deeply problematic in a parliamentary democracy

Need for amendments

The provisions of the Constitution that would need to be amended to switch to an essentially presidential system would be as follows: Part V - The Union - Chapter I - Executive - Articles 52-78 and Chapter III - Legislative Powers of the President; Part VI - The States - Chapter II - The Executive - Articles 153-167 and Chapter IV - Legislative Power of the Governor

Introduction of the presidential system would also require amendments to include several new provisions within the Constitution regarding the powers of the President, the Governors, the Council of Ministers, and provisions relating to the line of succession.

Some people feel that parliamentary democracy in India is part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Though the Constitution-makers had discussed the issue of a parliamentary versus presidential form of government at some length in the Constituent Assembly, they, for good reason, adopted the parliamentary system in a diverse country such as India. However, in my view, that would still not make the parliamentary system part of the basic structure. Democracy is certainly a part of the basic structure, and is consistent with the presidential form. One cannot say that the American system is not democratic.

Some people also feel that the presidential system would be antithetical to a federal country. But that is not the case either. The United States is a federal country, with its States enjoying vast powers even within a presidential form. The devolution of powers to the States or to the lower tiers of government such as municipalities, and panchayats will not depend on whether the system is presidential or parliamentary. In a presidential system, the power of the government is concentrated in one directly elected person whether he is the President of the country or the Governor of the State rather than being in the hands of multiple legislators. This is probably a reason why the Constitution-framers chose a parliamentary rather than a presidential form since they did not want executive power to be in the hands of one person alone, especially in a diverse country such as India. However, that to my mind is not part of the basic structure.

The government's move

Though the present government has appointed another committee headed by a former President of India and hand-picked members to decide on this issue, it does not enjoy a two-thirds majority in either House so as to push through these amendments without the support of a substantial section of the Opposition. The Opposition, i.e., the INDIA alliance, has indicated that it does not support this move. Thus, this fresh attempt to switch to one nation-one poll appears to me to be a non-starter.

In my view, it may have been floated at this juncture only to give the government some leeway to postpone elections in five States which are due to go to the polls this year end. The ruling party is staring at defeat in almost all these States and do not want to go to the general election on the back of a defeat. However, even postponing these elections in five states till April-May 2024 would involve constitutional issues. For instance, Article 172(1) states that a Legislative Assembly of a state, unless sooner dissolved, 'shall continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and no longer and the expiration of the said period of five years shall operate as a dissolution of the Assembly'.

Perhaps what the ruling party may be wanting is to impose President's rule in these five States by exercising powers under Article 356 of the Constitution and then get a pliant Election Commission of India to toe the government's line to postpone the Assembly elections until the general election to the Lok Sabha. The question is, will that not fall foul of the Constitution and the laws? In my view, it will. Though the Supreme Court of India has held that the Election Commission of India has a leeway of up to six months to hold the elections after the dissolution of the Assembly (in Re Special Reference Case 1 of 2002), the justification of using that leeway merely because a committee is again considering the idea of one nation-one poll would be a *mala fide* decision, and thus liable to be struck down by the courts.

An economic corridor, the Israel link and the geopolitics

Khinvraj Jangid

is Associate Professor and Director, Centre for Israel Studies, O.P. Jindal Global University Sonipat. He is currently Adjunct Faculty at the Ben-Gurion University, Israel

The 2023 summit of the G-20 under India's presidency went exceptionally well given the group's limited economic approach to the complex issues that the world faces, from climate change and underdevelopment, wealth concentration and poverty and, most critically for our times, falling democratic norms and principles of peace.

India's remarkable success at the summit this year, in early September, was captured by the global press, except in China, for various outcomes such as the inclusion of the African Union in the G-20, a tangible offer of clean energy through a biofuel alliance, increasing substantial aid for Asia-Africa, an economic corridor that connects India, West Asia and Europe using an ambitious rail and shipping link, and the Delhi Declaration which was a joint statement of all the group.

A candid view

The joint statement called the Delhi Declaration is newsworthy because of the fractured international order and power struggles between India and the United States with China or the U.S. with Russia. Despite the absence of China's President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the summit, India still got their agreement for the declaration which sums up the achievement. Substantially speaking, the statement is *pareve* (the Hebrew word for characterless things; read banal here) as it does not name Russia for aggression against Ukraine; but it does evoke the United Nations charter and principles of territorial sovereignty. An Indian official revealed the recipe for this over-applauded collective statement: "India needed a text that had something for everyone, so that each member can go back with a win."

> Israel is the weak link in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor plan

But the boldest outcome, and unanticipated by many, was the announcement of the economic corridor (the "India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor"), of a rail-ship route, to transport goods to Europe from India via the United Arab Emirates-Saudi Arabia-Jordan-Israel. Such a project will change the geopolitics for the future. The fact that it challenges China's Belt and Road Initiative is beside the more significant point. U.S. President Joe Biden called it 'a real big deal', which is transformative for all those involved and the rest of the world. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was prompt to show that Israel has been eager to be a part of such a project.

Interestingly, in the statement, Mr. Netanyahu thanked Mr. Biden, and did not mention Mr. Modi for this idea and initiative to which Israel will provide all its skills and support. Mr. Netanyahu is forbidden from diplomatic trophies due to his domestic politics and not paying attention for long to the expectations of Mr. Biden's foreign policy goals. If he persists on this path, Israel's foreign policy will suffer. The normalisation of ties with Saudi Arabia is a precondition for this economic corridor to materialise.

Israel's absence, possible factors

In its report on the G-20, Arab News found that 'India's G20 leaders' summit had an unprecedented Middle Eastern Presence'. India 'set a precedent in G20 history by inviting the most Middle Eastern countries ever to take part as guests in the group's key summit', and one wonders why Israel, India's strategic partner also from the region, was not given such an invitation. As a host, India invited nine non-member countries – Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain, and the United Arab Emirates – to the summit. It is all the more perplexing when the economic corridor was to be announced at the same summit and Israel is a part of the plan. Mr. Modi and Mr. Netanyahu share a good friendship. Perhaps factors such as a meet between Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Mr. Netanyahu may have been impossible unless there was diplomatic normalisation. Mr. Biden might have also preferred an event without Mr. Netanyahu because he has avoided him for the last eight months due to his domestic politics.

A push for peace

Saudi Arabia is willing to end the diplomatic boycott of Israel. It is a historical change because such an acceptance of Israel by the most important, religiously speaking, Muslim country, will help Israel with other countries such as Pakistan (already willing), Indonesia and Malaysia. For such a change, Saudis demand that Israel commits to the two-state solution and the well-being of the Palestinian people, even if the occupation does not end soon. Currently, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Saudi Arabia, in partnership with the Arab League and the European Union, has joined forces with Egypt and Jordan to launch a 'Peace Day Effort' aimed at incentivising Israelis and Palestinian leaders to compromise. Israel-Palestine peace is a very challenging aim and given the rise of extremism on both sides, it appears all the more impossible. Saudi Arabia is aware of it and is still interested in having deliberations to walk smoothly among Arabs and other Muslims while working with the Biden administration to make peace with the State of Israel. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor will have to wait until this happens.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The row with Canada

The U.S. Ambassador to Canada, David Cohen, has told a Canadian television network that it was intelligence from the "Five Eyes" that prompted Canada to link India. There is also the line that White House has conveyed its "deep concern" over the issue, with U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan going to the extent of saying that Washington is giving India no "special exemption" in the matter. These are very strong words. Curiously, the Canadian leader boasts of "credible allegations". It is India's stand that no credible evidence suggesting India's involvement has been shared by Canada, a claim not refuted by Canada. The situation is getting uglier by the day, with allegations and counter-allegations flying thick and fast, also posing the greatest foreign policy challenge the government has faced. A more nuanced approach is needed. Foreign policies should not be made hostage to domestic compulsions. This should hold good for both India and Canada.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

It is in our interests, the interests of Canada and the interests of democracy that the seemingly serious issues between India and Canada are resolved. Of greater importance is the need to prevent the creation of circumstances of distrust. The very charge that individuals or institutions of the government of India were involved in the killing should not have occurred even in the form of an allegation.

P.R.V. Raja,
Pandalam, Kerala

The demand by the U.S. for "accountability" exposes the double standards of the West. America has eliminated 'terror agents', proclaiming such incidents to be a major victory. The same logic would apply to the Indian side — as an act to defend the nation. An amicable solution at the earliest is indispensable for the well-being of the diaspora in both Canada and India.

M. Rishidev,
Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

A shame

It is most unfortunate that a Member of Parliament used derogatory words against another MP in Parliament. In the speech made by the 'victim' MP, there is nothing specific for the other MP to have reacted the way he did. The other unforgivable aspect is that two high-profile and senior MPs seemed to be appreciative of what was being said. It must be made clear to all MPs that they need to be more responsible.

Hemachandra Basappa,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Taking India back to the drawing board

Ritwika Sharma

is a Senior Resident Fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and team lead, Charkha, Vidhi's constitutional law centre

Its political motivations aside, the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, which promises 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha, and in the Legislative Assemblies of States and the National Capital Territory of Delhi, sheds the spotlight on another crucial aspect of representative democracy – the delimitation of electoral constituencies. The exercise of carving electoral constituencies and fixing their boundaries is referred to as delimitation.

Given their almost festive nature in India, elections are traditionally considered to be the primary site where democracy translates into action. Equally significant is the carving out of the boundaries of electoral constituencies, an issue that has implications for adequate representation of voters' interests as well as the number of members from each State who find space in the Parliament.

Since the 1970s, there has been no change in the number of Lok Sabha seats. The Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act, 1976 froze the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies as per the Census of 1971, up to the Census which was to be conducted in 2001. However, in 2001, the day of reckoning was pushed further to 2026. This was done through an amendment to Article 82 by the Constitution (Eighty-Fourth Amendment) Act. While the boundaries of electoral constituencies were redrawn in 2002, there was no change in the number of seats in the Lok Sabha. Only after 2026 will we consider changing the number of seats in the Lok Sabha. Strictly speaking, the relevant numbers as to population (and its distribution) are expected to come from the 2031 Census, which will be the first census after 2026.

Delimitation as of now

Article 81 of the Constitution says that each State gets seats in the Lok Sabha in proportion to its population. The freeze on delimitation effected in 1976 was to allay the concerns of States which took a lead in population control and which were faced with the prospect of reduction of their number of seats in the Lok Sabha. The practical consequences, however, of the 1976 freeze is that the allocation done on the basis of the 1971 Census continues to hold good for the present population figures. India's population has, of course, increased significantly since then. Using figures from 1971 to represent today's population runs contrary to the grain of the Constitution besides obviously distorting what representative democracy stands for.

The exercise of delimitation also implicates the constitutional values of federalism and representation of States as consolidated units. In the preceding decades, the population of the north has increased at a faster pace as compared with the south. In practical terms, this means that MPs in States in north India represent more voters than MPs in the south. Given this context, the question of delimitation necessarily has serious implications for both the individual voter as well as the States. The southern States run the risk of losing some of their seats in Parliament once the delimitation exercise is completed based on current population figures.

We need a robust conversation around delimitation sooner than later, so that lifting of the freeze on allocation of seats does not have to be pushed ahead further

Delimitation in the near future

The new Parliament building appears ready to house over 800 MPs in the Lok Sabha. How these MPs will be spread out across India's electoral constituencies, and how many people each MP will represent, are questions that beg urgent answers. The freeze in 1976 was necessitated by States' apprehensions embedded in the consequences of their population control measures and widely differing fertility rates. Such concerns hold good even today.

The delimitation of constituencies will need answers to certain vexed questions. The first question might seem more logistical than anything else, where should the population figures come from to inform the exercise of delimitation? The 2021 Census was pushed courtesy of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Union Home Minister has indicated that the next Census and subsequent delimitation will be conducted after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Interestingly, if the next Census were to be actually conducted in 2031 (which is when it is due), the population figures from 1971 would have informed the distribution of seats in the Lok Sabha for more than half a century. Let us also not forget that upon completion of the Census and the redrawing of electoral boundaries, the change in the numerical composition of the Lok Sabha will have to be reflected in the Constitution through an amendment.

Even more vexed are the qualitative concerns that will determine how boundaries of electoral constituencies will be redrawn. If done entirely in terms of proportion of population, the redrawing of constituencies would yield more seats to States in the north, given their higher population. Besides concerns around representation, this will also lead to distrust on the part of States in the south.

The recently concluded delimitation in Assam, ahead of the 2024 Assembly elections, witnessed widespread concerns around how altering the boundaries of certain districts and renaming certain constituencies can have a potentially acute impact on the representation of specific communities. That is all the indication needed to start a robust conversation around delimitation sooner than later, so that lifting of the freeze on allocation of Lok Sabha seats does not have to be pushed ahead further. That will be a stop-gap solution to an imminent concern, one that cannot be wished away.

A vitiated political discourse in Tamil Nadu

Any opinion is expected to be in favour of Hindutva or the Dravidian ideology

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan

As the country gears up for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the political discourse in Tamil Nadu is highly polarised. An opinion on any issue in the news is expected to be in favour of either the Hindutva ideology or the Dravidian ideology; a middle path is viewed with suspicion from those on both sides of the divide. Personal attacks have been taking place frequently. Leaders long gone have been dragged into debates to prove a point. People keep attempting to find out whether the narrative of their rivals is shaped by caste and/or religion. Leaders who remain silent and organisations which refuse to take any stand on an issue are branded as the 'B team' or 'sleeper cell' of their political rivals. When an issue triggers a debate, leaders and their supporters form teams and launch a no-holds-barred attack on those holding a different point of view.

The debate over Sanatana Dharma is a case in point. The subject continues to dominate political talk. On the one side are Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, his son Udhayanidhi Stalin, and party ideologues, and on the other side is the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its affiliates.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has every reason to worry about another victory for the BJP at the national level in the Lok Sabha elections even if the INDIA bloc, led by it, manages to sweep the polls in Tamil Nadu. The DMK leadership knows that the only way to prevent such an outcome is to indulge in an ideological war

against the BJP. This may gain some acceptance in the State, but it will not be adequate to win elections at the national level. The DMK wants to project that the BJP, for all its posturing, represents the interests of upper-caste Hindus and that its core ideology stems from Sanatana Dharma and the Manu Smriti.

The latest leader to be pulled into this war of words is C. Rajagopalachari or Rajaji, a former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and his daughter Lakshmi, who was married to Devdas Gandhi, the son of Mahatma Gandhi. A social media post accused Rajaji of "shaving his daughter's head and keeping her in a corner of the house after her husband died" till Dravidar Kazhagam founder Periyar E.V. Ramasamy intervened. In fact, it was his elder daughter Namagiri who lost her husband at a young age, not Lakshmi. The story was spread on social media to prove the point that Rajaji, a follower of Sanatana Dharma, refused to arrange for his daughter to remarry, while Periyar advocated widow remarriage. As expected, critics of the Dravidian movement used the opportunity to recall Periyar's marriage with Maniammal, a woman younger to him by many years. Both these examples are evidence of personal hatred, which always assumes centre stage when an argument fails.

Faith as a personal issue is also not respected in Tamil Nadu. Whenever DMK and its leaders attack Hinduism, their rivals immediately question the faith of Mr. Stalin's wife, Durga Stalin, who regularly visits temples.

Communist leader Mythili Sivaraman wrote in her book, *Haunted by Fire: Essays on Caste, Class, Exploitation and Emancipation*, about how DMK founder C.N. Annadurai had also ridiculed "the God-fearing, passive capitalist of the South." She recalls him saying, "When the Dravidian industrialists and business magnates are visiting the pilgrim centres of Thirumalai, Puri Jagannath, Kasi, Gaya, Kandi, Kadir Kamam asking for favours from the gods, the Northern capitalists are touring the 'pilgrim centres' of the business world, London, Washington, Paris, Brussels, meeting industrialists and gaining expertise in business methods and technology. Southern capitalism had to shape up in order to survive."

Caste, too, is another aspect of this deep divide. A Brahmin, however progressive, is viewed with suspicion. A political party that bore the brunt of this attitude is the Communist Party of India (Marxist) as senior leaders of the party happened to be Brahmins.

It is not just Brahmins. The caste of any individual who offers a counter-narrative is dragged into an argument. Any overtones are interpreted as support for a particular community, religion, and party. The fear of personal attacks prevents a proper debate in Tamil Nadu's political scene. Sadly, cacophony and personal denigration prevail.

Indians form a big chunk of diaspora in Canada

A majority of immigrants, foreign students, and workers in Canada are Indians

DATA POINT

Sonikka Loganathan & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Last week, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged that agents of the Indian government were involved in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen, in Surrey. India called the allegations "absurd" and "motivated". India had declared Nijjar, the head of the Khalistani Tiger Force, a terrorist in 2020, and has accused Canada of providing a safe haven for people who support the Khalistani cause.

Soon after the accusation, the head of Indian intelligence in Canada was expelled. India retaliated by expelling a senior Canadian diplomat. Indo-Canadian relations have been turbulent over the past few years, in large part due to what India sees as Canada's sympathetic approach towards supporters of the Khalistan movement. Canada has a large Sikh and Punjabi immigrant diaspora population.

On September 21, India suspended visa services in Canada. This has reportedly led to anxiety among students, their families, and other travellers who aspire to go to Canada, especially Punjabis. People who identified Punjabi as their ethnic or cultural origin during the 2021 Canadian census formed the largest share of Indians in Canada, followed by Tamilians, Gujaratis, and Bengalis. More importantly, 30% of Punjabis in Canada belong to the second or third generation (persons not born outside Canada). A higher share of Goans and Tamils are from the second or third generation; however, their overall numbers are relatively lower than Punjabis. **Chart 1** plots the share of Indians across ethnic/cultural group who belong to the second or third generation on the horizontal axis. The bigger the circle, the more the number of people in that group.

Indians form the largest share of immigrants, foreign students, foreign workers, and other groups in Canada. India overtook China and the Philippines to form the highest share of immigrants in Canada in the 2016-2021 period (**Chart 2**). Similarly, the highest number of applications received for permanent residency in Canada between January 2020 and July 2023 were from Indians (4.6 lakh) followed by the Chinese (1.05 lakh) (**Chart 3**). Indians also submitted the highest number (8.7 lakh) of new study permit applications to Canada in the same period, followed by Nigerians (1.2 lakh) (**Chart 4**). The highest share of International Mobility Program work permit holders were also Indians (5.4 lakh) followed by Ukrainians (1.5 lakh) (**Chart 5**).

Trade equations have also taken a hit. Canada postponed a trade mission to India that was scheduled in October. It has also paused talks on a proposed trade treaty with India. **Chart 6** shows the value of items imported by Canada from India in $ between 2018 and 2022. The bigger and darker the circle, the more the import dependency on India. For instance, Canada imported $1.7 billion worth of medicaments from India in the period, but of Canada's total medicaments imports, India's share was only 4%. Canada imported diamond, jewellery and linen products in large numbers from India. It is also highly dependent on India for these items.

Chart 7 shows the value of the items imported by India from Canada in $ between 2018 and 2022. The bigger and darker the circle, the more the import dependency on Canada. For instance, India imported $3.6 billion worth of coal from Canada, but of India's total coal imports, Canada's share formed only 2.6%. Fertilizers, leguminous vegetables, newsprint and uranium/thorium ore were items that India imported heavily from Canada. India's dependency on Canada was relatively high was for these items as well.

India-Canada ties in numbers

The data for the charts are sourced from the UN comtrade database and Statistics Canada

Chart 1: The share of Indians across ethnic/cultural groups who belong to the second or third generation (not born outside Canada) on the horizontal axis

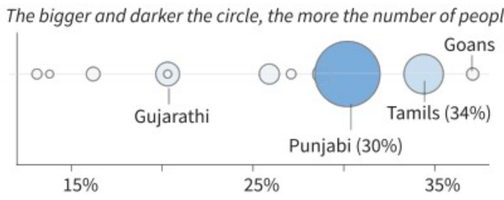


Chart 2: India overtook China and the Philippines and formed the highest share of immigrants in Canada in the 2016-2021 period

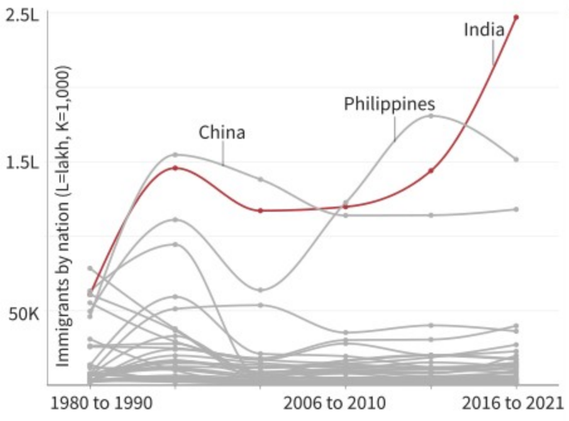


Chart 3: Applications received by Canada for permanent residency between January 2020 and July 2023

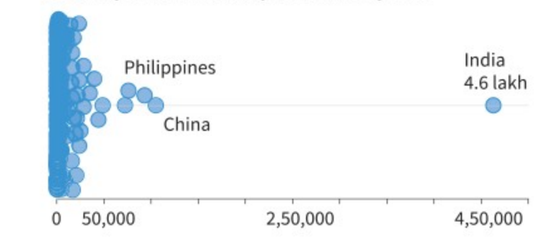
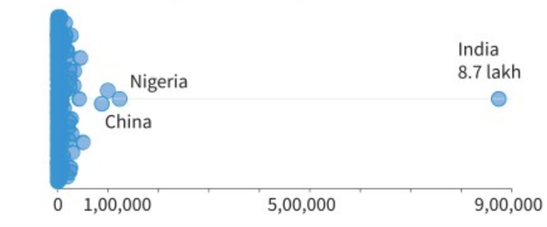


Chart 4: New study permit applications received by Canada between January 2020 and July 2023



Scene of crime: The Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara Sahib in Surrey, where temple president Hardeep Singh Nijjar was gunned down. AP

Chart 5: International Mobility Program work permit holders between January 2020 and July 2023

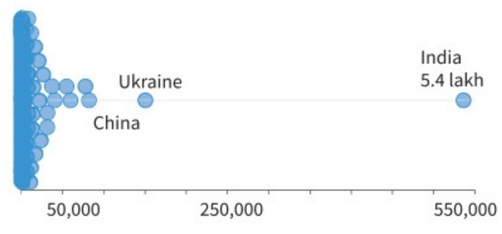
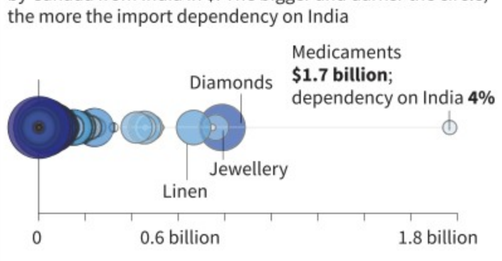


Chart 6: The chart shows the value of the items imported by Canada from India in $. The bigger and darker the circle, the more the import dependency on India



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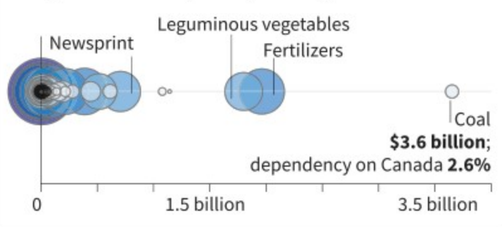


FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 25 1973

Kissinger suggests world meet on food issue

United Nations, Sept 24: The United States to-day pledged to work for peace through the United Nations as well as through bilateral relationships, and invited the rest of the U.N. membership to move along with it from "detente to co-operation and from co-existence to community." Performing his first official act as the news U.S. Secretary of State, two days after he was confirmed in that post, Dr. Henry Kissinger told the U.N. General Assembly this morning that the U.S. instead of remaining satisfied with a world of uneasy truces, offsetting blocs, accommodations of convenience and a stability that rested on a balance of forces, would work for a peace based on shared aspirations. Dr. Kissinger sought to allay the fears of those who thought the Big Power detente might lead to spheres of influence, by declaring that "we have not been asked to participate in any condominium and we could reject such an appeal if it were made." (At the same time, Dr. Kissinger, obviously referring to the recent non-aligned conference in Algiers, remarked in passing that "as the tension between the two original blocs has eased, a third grouping increasingly assumes the characteristics of a bloc of its own – the alignment of the non-aligned.").

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 25, 1923

Wireless scheme

London, Sept 23: Confirming the "Daily Telegraph's" announcement that negotiations between the Post office and Marconis for Empire wireless service have reached a deadlock, the "Observer's" wireless expert says it appears that the "post office insists on securing for itself exclusive monopoly of the wireless service to Canada, South Africa and Egypt or pooling arrangement under which Marconis shall give the post office free use of whole of its patents. Service shall be ran by the post office and Government officials without Marconis having any power of control over the working of the service and the company shall place at the disposal of the post office which it will erect in the Dominion. The Dominion premiers are certain to insist on a searching enquiry into the matter.

From Page One

'Aadhaar unreliable in hot, humid India'

The rating agency termed Aadhaar, and a new crypto-based digital identity token called Worldline, as two digital ID systems in the world that stand out due to their scale and extent of innovation. However, Moody's also said that they have "drawn scrutiny, especially concerning privacy and security". Stressing that ID systems like Aadhaar lead to the concentration of sensitive information with specific entities and increase the risks of data breaches, Moody's made a pitch for decentralised ID (DID) systems such as digital wallets, based on blockchain capabilities that give users more control of their private data and can reduce online fraud.

Decentralised systems

"In recent years, the spotlight has shifted toward DID as a strategic response to the security and privacy vulnerabilities posed by centralized ID systems like Aadhaar," the agency noted, citing successful programs in Catalonia, Azerbaijan and Estonia that have used blockchain-based systems to issue digital identities.

"Estonia, known for its fully digitalized public services, has embraced SSI [Self-Sovereign Identity] to grant citizens complete control over their digital identities," it pointed out.

"In a centralized system, a single entity such as a bank, social media platform or government electoral roll controls and manages a user's identifying credentials and their access to online resources. That entity can dispose of the user's identity data – name, address and Social Security number, for example – for internal or third-party profiling purposes," the report averred, stating that such systems offer the least personal data control to users.

Multiple entry, exit may not suit India: panel

"If institutions allow MEME, it would be very difficult for the institutions to predict how many students would exit and how many would join midway. Since institutions would not know the in-and-out traffic, it will certainly disturb the pupil-teacher ratio," the report said.

The members also expressed concern the uneven geographical distribution of higher educational institutions creating hurdles in managing MEME in several areas, mostly the countryside. "The institutions have not thought very clearly about this problem and how they will resolve it when it is at their doorstep," the report said.

The panel, however, noted that MEME would offer students greater flexibility and choice in their educational pathways, and asked the Centre to develop comprehensive guidelines and a well-defined framework for MEME options, including specific eligibility criteria, credit transfer mechanisms providing a clear road map for students pursuing different exit points. "Also, implementation of a standardised Credit Accumulation and Transfer (CAT) system that allows students to earn and transfer credits seamlessly across institutions would facilitate smooth transitions between different levels of education, from certificate courses to doctoral programmes," the report said, and added that there were issues and difficulties in implementing the MEME options.

The panel recommended that the Union Education Ministry have wider consultations with various universities/institutions, their regulatory bodies and other stakeholders to devise ways in view of the difficulties being faced in implementing the MEME options and apprise the panel of it. The Kerala government has decided not to implement MEME in colleges and universities in the State.

Kerala to decide on census to revise OBC list

Regarding the court cases, the State will file affidavits seeking time since a decision on holding the SECC involves a policy decision of the government, Mr. Radhakrishnan said.

The Kerala High Court, in June 2020, asked the State government and other stakeholders to finalise the socio-economic study of the Socially and Educationally Backward Class within six months from the date of the judgment. Later, the Supreme Court asked the authorities in September 2020 to complete the process in one year.

In 2021, the State sought from the Centre the details of the SECC in 2011, following a writ petition moved in the High Court by a non-governmental organisation, Manavaikyavedhi. It sought caste-based reservation for Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Nairs, and Ambalavasi communities in the State. The Minority Indians Planning and Vigilance Commission Trust, another NGO, had also moved the High Court demanding the list be updated.

However, the Centre declined the request. Responding to a writ petition in the Supreme Court by the State of Maharashtra seeking SECC details, the Centre had taken a stance that the data collected for the caste census were not accurate and hence, unusable. It had also clarified that the State governments were at liberty to conduct any SECC suiting their requirement. The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had also informed the Kerala State Commission for Backward Classes that the 2011 caste data cannot be provided to any agency. . The government may also wait for the view of the ruling coalition, the Left Democratic Front, considering the social and political implications of the decision.

Defence Board discusses plan for second *Vikrant*-like carrier

The estimated cost of the project is ₹40,000 crore; it could see some modifications and upgrades to the design of *Vikrant*; the proposal is yet to be cleared by DPB; once okayed, it will be sent for final approval by Defence Acquisition Council

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Huge vessel: The INS Vikrant is powered by four General Electric LM2500 engines which give it a maximum speed of 28 knots and an endurance of 7,500 nautical miles. PTI

The Defence Procurement Board (DPB) last week discussed the Navy's proposal for acquiring a second *Vikrant*-like aircraft carrier, according to defence sources. However, the DPB is yet to clear the proposal. Only after that will the proposal be put for final approval by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by the Defence Minister, a source said.

The DPB, which met last Friday, discussed the issue. The discussions are expected to continue in the next meeting, the source said.

The project, estimated to cost around ₹40,000 crore, will see some modifications and upgrades to the design of the country's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) *INS Vikrant*, commissioned in September 2022, and will also be manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (CSL), another source stated.

The 262-metre-long, 62-metre-wide *INS Vikrant*, displacing 44,800 tonnes, is powered by four General Electric LM2500 engines, which give it a maximum speed of 28 knots and an endurance of 7,500 nautical miles. The ship uses an aircraft-operation mode known as Short Take Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) for which it is equipped with a ski-jump for launching aircraft, and a set of three "arrester wires" for their recovery onboard.

In addition, the Navy also operates the 44,500-tonne carrier *INS Vikramaditya*, which also employs the STOBAR mechanism, procured from Russia under a $2.3-billion deal and inducted in November 2013.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Aero India airshow in Bengaluru in February, Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar had said that the Navy was finalising plans for a repeat order of a *Vikrant*-sized carrier, Indigenous Aircraft Carrier-2 (IAC-2), with some modifications. Given the long timelines, it may be inducted "close to the time *INS Vikramaditya* leaves service effectively becoming its replacement", he said, adding that the Navy would continue to study the need for a larger and more capable carrier.

The Navy, which has for long based its force structure centred on three carriers, had envisaged an IAC-2 with a displacement of 65,000 tonnes and a Catapult Assisted Take Off But Arrested Recovery (CATOBAR) system for launching aircraft as well as full-electric propulsion.

Higher cost

However, a much bigger carrier with newer technologies would mean much higher cost and build time due to which the Navy has settled for a repeat of a *Vikrant*-sized carrier. The keel of *Vikrant* was laid in 2009. It was launched into water in 2013 and commissioned in 2022. With the experience gained from that, CSL officials had stated that a repeat order can be executed in seven to eight years.

In the past, the Standing Committee on Defence had noted that three aircraft carriers were an "unavoidable requirement" to meet any eventualities and stated that taking into account the long coastline and hostile adversities on both sides of Indian peninsula, an aircraft carrier on both sides of coast was "quintessential" to uphold operational requirements.

Five Eyes gave Canada intel in Nijjar case, says U.S. envoy

Associated Press
TORONTO

Information shared by members of 'Five Eyes', the intelligence-sharing alliance, was part of what Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau used to make public allegations on the Indian government's possible involvement in the assassination of a Sikh Canadian, the U.S. Ambassador to Canada said.

"There was shared intelligence among 'Five Eyes' partners that helped lead Canada to [make] the statements that the Prime Minister [Justin Trudeau] made," U.S. Ambassador David Cohen told the Canadian *CTV News* network.

CTV News released some of Mr. Cohen's comments on Friday, and the network said that it would air the full interview on Sunday. On Thursday, a Canadian official said that the allegation of India's involvement in the killing is based on the surveillance of Indian diplomats in Canada, including intelligence provided by a major ally – without saying which one. The 'Five Eyes' intelligence-sharing alliance is made up of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the U.K., and the U.S.

SC grants protection to rape accused, asks to cooperate in probe

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has granted interim protection to a man accused of rape, returning the focus to its earlier decisions that consensual sex following a 'genuine' but unfulfilled promise to marry does not amount to rape.

A Bench, headed by Justice Vikram Nath, recently ordered the Maharashtra Police not to take any "coercive measures against the petitioner, provided he extends all cooperation in the investigation".

"The present case is based on a promise to marry and the subsequent break-up of the relationship. Every breach of promise to marry cannot be said to be cheating or rape," argued an anticipatory bail plea filed by the man, who is represented by advocates Sana Raees Khan, M.S. Vishnu Shankar, and Sriram Parakkat. "A couple in love with each other may have a sexual relationship and later on realise they are not compatible with each other. Their earlier physical contact cannot be called rape," the plea said.

The petition reasoned that the complainant was a "27-year-old educated woman". The Bench gave six weeks for Maharashtra to respond to the contention.

In August last year, the Supreme Court had held in its order in *Mandar Deepak Pawar vs State of Maharashtra* that it was not rape if a consensual physical relationship was based on a genuine promise of marriage which could not be fulfilled.

The court had then distinguished between "a false promise of marriage and breach of a promise made in good faith but subsequently not fulfilled". It was dealing with an FIR in which a woman had accused a man of rape and cheating. They had previously been in a consensual relationship before falling apart.

Fadnavis visits flood-hit Nagpur; says govt. will build better infrastructure

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

Caught unawares: Army personnel conducting rescue operations in the waterlogged Ambazari area of Nagpur on Saturday. The city received 109mm rain in just three hours. ANI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis visited the flood-hit areas of Nagpur city on Sunday and said the damage caused by the rain could have been minimised had older structures been repaired.

At least four people were killed and hundreds had to be rescued as the city received 109 millimetres of rain in barely three hours on Saturday.

Mr. Fadnavis, who hails from Nagpur, directed officials to take immediate measures.

"The situation is very bad. The people have suffered a lot due to water entering their homes and causing significant damage to property. While it is true that we do not have the carrying capacity to cope with showers of such intensity, we could have minimised the damage if some measures, like removing older structures or repairing them, had been taken earlier," Mr. Fadnavis said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the government would henceforth work in a way to ensure that water did not overflow into people's homes in future.

"The walls of the Nag river would be repaired and the State government will be repairing and laying out new infrastructure to prevent such occurrences in the future. While the India Meteorological Department had given an orange alert, it could not predict that so much rain would fall in such a short period. There is always something to be learnt from such disasters," he said.

10,000 homes affected

It is estimated that nearly 10,000 homes were affected by the flooding on Saturday, with water spilling over Nagpur's famous Ambazari lake and the walls of the Nag river.

The Congress and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) accused Mr. Fadnavis of behaving arrogantly and insensitively towards affected citizens seeking recompense for rain-related damages.

It's a world very much of 'double standards', says Jaishankar

Sriram Lakshman
NEW YORK

With External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New York to address the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the government has been highlighting India's role as an advocate and a focal point for the Global South. Mr. Jaishankar said there was pressure from the South for global change, but it was a world of "double standards" and there was resistance to change.

Speaking on Saturday evening at "South Rising: Partnerships, Institutions and Ideas", an event organised by the Observer Research Foundation, a think tank close to the government, in collaboration with India's United Nations mission and Reliance Foundation, Mr. Jaishankar said the world was witnessing political pressure for change, particularly from the Global South. There was also resistance to change, he said, pointing to those wielding economic and institutional influence, such as seen at the UN Security Council.

"Those who are economically dominant today are leveraging their production capabilities," the Minister said, adding that those with historical institutional influence have "weaponised" a lot of these capabilities.

"They will all mouth the right things. But the reality is, still today, it's a world very much of double standards," Mr. Jaishankar said, pointing to the COVID-19 pandemic as an example.

S. Jaishankar

Presumably taking a jab at China, he said, "It's not just the North... there are parts which may not think of themselves as North but are very resistant to changes."

Cultural rebalancing

There was also a cultural rebalancing under way, he said. "And cultural rebalancing really means recognising the diversity of the world, respecting diversity, giving other cultures and other traditions that due respect," he said. The Minister cited examples of millets (prevalent in diets in the Global South) and traditional medicine.

He suggested that market forces had made grains like wheat more prevalent.

"In the name of the market a lot of things are done," Mr. Jaishankar said. "Like in the name of freedom a lot of things are done," he added to laughter from the audience.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ruchira Kamboj, also spoke at the event. The panel discussion included Foreign Ministers Vince Henderson of Dominica, Kamina Johnson Smith of Jamaica, and Joao Gomes Cravinho of Portugal.

Mr. Jaishankar was asked about his suggestion, from 2022, to Europe that it grow out of a "Europe's problems are the world's problems but the world's problems are not Europe's problems" mindset. He said the pandemic and focus on Ukraine had crowded out other conversations from the G-20 and that it took effort "to get, actually, the G-20 to talk about what the world wanted it to talk about".

Debt, resources to meet climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), digital access, nutrition, and gender were issues of concern to the world, according to Mr. Jaishankar. Prior to the G-20 New Delhi Summit, India had organised the 'Voice of the Global South' Summit in January to gauge the views of countries on issues of importance to them, he said.

Mr. Jaishankar suggested that some progress on the reform of international financial institutions (i.e., the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund) could be made before India gives up its G-20 Presidency.

Earlier in the day, the Permanent Mission of India to the UN hosted an event, "India-UN for Global South: Delivering for Development", in which Mr. Jaishankar, Prime Minister of Samoa Fiamē Naomi Mata'afa, UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis, Foreign Ministers from several Global South countries, and UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner participated.

On Sunday, Mr. Jaishankar had bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Mexico, Armenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Ajit Pawar refuses to comment on Praful's photo with Sharad

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Sunday categorically refused to comment on a recent photo taken by his faction's leader Praful Patel along with NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

Mr. Patel, a key member of the rebel NCP faction led by Mr. Ajit Pawar, had shared a photo of himself along with NCP patriarch Mr. Sharad Pawar earlier this week in the new Parliament building's Rajya Sabha chamber, raising eyebrows given the two rival NCP factions [led by Mr. Sharad Pawar and his nephew Mr. Ajit Pawar] have been fighting it out for control over the party.

"I do not want to comment on it. This is not my job. I will only comment on development issues," said Mr. Ajit Pawar, speaking to presspersons in Pimpri-Chinchwad township.

Confident of a good show in Assembly polls, says Rahul

Congress is certainly winning M.P., Chhattisgarh, probably winning Telangana, 'very close' in Rajasthan, says party leader; adds that differences among INDIA partners were being ironed out

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday exuded confidence that the party would win the upcoming Assembly elections in Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. The party is in power in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

Mr. Gandhi said that in the Lok Sabha election next year, the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) was fighting to save the idea of India.

The former Congress chief was speaking here on Sunday at a conclave organised by a media organisation. He added that the ruling BJP was in for a big surprise in the Lok Sabha election.

On the Congress's preparedness for the Assembly elections, Mr. Gandhi said, "I would say, right now, we are probably winning Telangana, we are certainly winning Madhya Pradesh, we are certainly winning Chhattisgarh. Rajasthan, we are very close, and we think we will be able to win. That is what it is looking like, and by the way, that is also what the BJP internally is saying."

Among the masses: Rahul Gandhi after his interaction with students of Maharani College, in Jaipur on Saturday. PTI

Mr. Gandhi said welfare schemes similar to that in Karnataka would be announced in these States too. He said efforts were there to defeat the BJP's move to distract people before every election.

Mr. Gandhi said there was unanimity among the INDIA partners that their fight was not against a political party, but for "saving the idea of India". "The Opposition is thinking about this election in a fundamentally different way than it thought about any other election before," he said, adding the Opposition believed that the idea of India was under attack, and the concept of free election and free speech was under threat.

On differences among the partners, he said that in the bulk of places there were no differences and in some places where they exist, the differences were being ironed out.

Mr. Gandhi maintained that he would continue to oppose the monopoly created by the BJP and the Adani Group. He said the Adani Group not only owned media, but also controlled huge wealth as it had been concentrated on "one gentleman".

"The BJP wins elections by distracting and not allowing us to construct our narrative," he said. "Every time the Congress raised important points, the BJP would use this type of strategy to distract, but we have learnt how to deal with this."

Mr. Gandhi also spoke about another Bharat Jodo Yatra from east to west.

Joblessness, inflation taking a toll on households and small businesses: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ordinary households and small businesses are under intense pressure in the face of high unemployment and inflation levels and the Union government is too inept to fix it, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a statement on Sunday, citing the Reserve Bank of India's latest bulletin and other sources.

Countering the government's claims that savings had declined because people were buying cars and homes, Mr. Ramesh pointed to the RBI data showing a 23% increase in gold loans and 29% increase in personal loans in the past one year – calling these "clear signs of distress, as people go into debt to meet basic expenses".

Posting the statement on X, Mr. Ramesh wrote, "No matter how much the Modi government hides the data, the reality is that the vast majority of people are suffering."

Jairam Ramesh

In the statement, Mr. Ramesh said that the latest bulletin of the RBI showed the "complete failure of the Modi government to execute a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic". He pointed out that around 43% of the population was in the labour force as of February 2020 and three-and-a-half years later labour force participation stood at around 40%.

He noted that in 2022, women were still making only 85% of what they made pre-pandemic and also cited a recent report of Azim Premji University which showed that over 42% of graduates under the age of 25 were unemployed in 2021-22.

Rise in prices

He highlighted the rise in prices of essential commodities such as pulses, sugar, wheat flour, and jaggery, which, he said, was impacting the household budget.

Citing the 16% fall in foreign direct investment (FDI), Mr. Ramesh said foreign investors were increasingly unlikely to bet on India because of the "Modi government's crony capitalism, failed economic policies, and stoking of communal tensions".

The Congress leader said small businesses were losing out as crony capitalism had made it "impossible for the MSMEs to compete".

He cited a Marcellus report that said that 80% of profits in 2022 had gone to just 20 companies. He pointed out that before 2014, small businesses' share in sales was around 7%, which had come down to 4% in Q1 of 2023.

PM hails Chandrayaan-3 landing, G-20 Summit in *Mann Ki Baat*

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the landing of Chandrayaan-3 and the organisation of the G-20 Summit in New Delhi in the 105th episode of *Mann ki Baat* on Sunday.

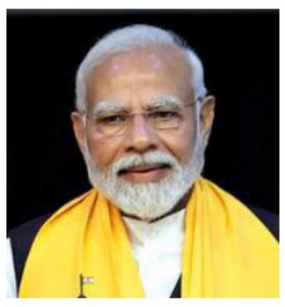
"More than 80 lakh people watched [Chandrayaan-3's landing] on ISRO's YouTube channel, which is a record in itself," Mr. Modi said in his monthly broadcast. "This conveys how deep the attachment of crores of Indians is to Chandrayaan-3," he said.

"India has proven the mettle of its leadership by making the African Union a full member of the G-20," Mr. Modi said. He invoked the Silk Road to emphasise the significance of the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic corridor. "This corridor is going to become the basis of world trade for hundreds of years to come, and history will always remember that this corridor was initiated on Indian soil," he said.

Promoting tourism

Mr. Modi said that the arrival of over one lakh foreign delegates to India for the G-20 would boost tourism in India.

"Just a few days ago, Santiniketan and the holy Hoysala temples of Karnataka were declared [UNESCO] World Heritage Sites," Mr. Modi said, referring to the township associated with Rabindranath Tagore.



Narendra Modi

"It's said that if any sector boosts employment with the least investment, it is tourism," Mr. Modi said.

He encouraged visits to the world heritage sites, saying that by doing so "you will of course become familiar with the glorious history of our country, but on top of that, you will also be an important means to increase the income of the local people".

Mr. Modi encouraged spending on local products in the upcoming festive season.

Mr. Modi played excerpts of German singer Cassandra Mae Spittmann singing songs in different Indian languages. "Cass-Mae has been unable to see since birth, but this difficult challenge has not stopped her extraordinary achievements," Mr. Modi said, referring to Ms. Spittman by her stage name.

Mr. Modi invoked scripture to highlight the importance of wildlife. "People go to temples and worship, but don't pay attention to the birds and animals serving as the mounts of the deities," Mr. Modi said. He brought up Cobra Team, a collective based in Ajmer, Rajasthan, that saves venomous snakes. The collective, led by Sukhdev Bhatt, "has till now saved the lives of more than 30,000 venomous snakes," Mr. Modi said. He praised Chennai-based M. Rajendra Prasad, an autorickshaw driver who has taken care of hundreds of pigeons at his home.

Odisha CM rates Modi 8 out of 10

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday said he would rate Prime Minister Narendra Modi eight out of 10 on various parameters of leading a government at the Centre. "He has helped in rooting out corruption and is trying his best to serve the people," he said.

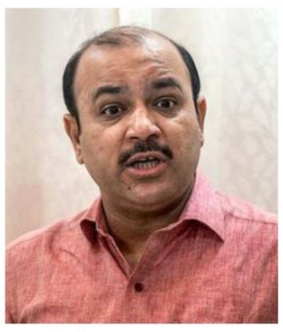
Ali seeks inquiry by Speaker into 'baseless allegations' by BJP leader Nishikant Dubey

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) member MP Danish Ali on Sunday alleged that after his "verbal lynching" by BJP's Ramesh Bidhuri in the Lok Sabha, a narrative was being set for "lynching" him outside the House. He was responding to BJP leader Nishikant Dubey, who accused him of making "unsavoury" remarks to instigate Mr. Bidhuri.

Mr. Bidhuri's derogatory remarks targeting Mr. Ali during a discussion on the success of Chandrayaan-3 in the Lok Sabha on Thursday have sparked a furore, with Opposition leaders calling for stringent action against the BJP MP.

Mr. Dubey had, on Saturday, written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, urging him to also probe the alleged "unsavoury" conduct and remarks of Mr. Ali, alleging that the BSP MP had made "highly objectionable and blasphemous" remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi that had provoked Mr. Bidhuri.



Danish Ali

Reacting to the allegations, Mr. Ali said, "I have seen Nishikant Dubey's letter. My verbal lynching was done inside the House and now this is a narrative to get me lynched outside the House." He added, "I would request the Speaker to investigate this baseless allegation. This makes a case for breach of privilege against Nishikant Dubey."

'Baseless allegations'

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Mr. Ali said, "As the principle of '*Res ipsa loquitur*' says 'the thing speaks for itself', the claims of Sh @nishikant_dubey have no basis. What has happened is a blot and absolutely undeniable. Fictionalising the events and playing with the facts will not work this time." On Saturday, he had alleged that some BJP leaders were pushing this narrative that he had instigated Mr. Bidhuri.

"Truth is that I tried to protect the Prime Minister's dignity and urged the Chair to expunge from the House's records highly objectionable words used about Modi *ji*," he said, posting a short video.

INLD, JJP to hold rallies on Devi Lal birth anniversary

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) and the Jannayak Janata Party (JJP), both led by Chautalas, will hold rallies in Haryana and Rajasthan, respectively, with different political agendas to mark the birth anniversary of late Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal.

While the INLD's *Samman Diwas Samaroh* at Kaithal will mark the culmination of the party's 4,000-km *Parivartan Yatra* with a call for a political change in Haryana, the JJP will kick off its campaign for the Rajasthan Assembly election with a *Kisan Vijay Samman Diwas* rally in Sikar, the Lok Sabha constituency represented by Chaudhary Devi Lal in 1989. Several leaders from the INDIA bloc, including Lalu Prasad, Sharad Pawar, Nitish Kumar, and Uddhav Thackeray are likely to attend the INLD's rally. The party has extended invitation to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Congress.

INLD secretary general Abhay Chautala, at a press conference in Chandigarh a week ago, had said his party was not averse to a tie-up with the Congress in Haryana to defeat the BJP.

JJP leader and Haryana's Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala said the party was aiming to contest 20 to 25 seats in Rajasthan and field strong candidates to emerge as a "kingmaker" in the polls.

Suspected hooch tragedy in dry Bihar leaves two dead; probe on

Press Trust of India
MUZAFFARPUR

A suspected hooch tragedy in dry Bihar has left two people dead. Another two lost their eyesight. This after drinking spurious liquor in Muzaffarpur district, a police officer said on Sunday.

According to Additional SP Awadhesh Dixit, the incident was reported from Qazi Mohammadpur police station area. The wife and daughter of one Shivchandra Paswan, the alleged supplier who is on the run, have been taken into custody. According to a statement issued by the district police, bodies of the deceased have been sent for post-mortem examination while a team of forensic experts is scanning the area for clues.

Meanwhile, the ASP said a search was on for Paswan, who provided the victims the concoction, instead of toddy.

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By Order
Secretary to the Search-cum-Selection Committee

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, MAHARANA BHUPAL, GOVT. HOSPITAL, UDAIPUR

BID NOTICE No. 17 Date 8.9.2023 (E-Tender)

On line Bids are invited from Principal Manufacturer/Authorized Dealer/Distributors for the following items (Rate Contract) for 2 year. Details of this Bid notification and pre-qualification criteria can also be seen in NIB exhibited on website **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**. Bids are to be submitted online in electronic format on website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.

Sr. No.	Item Name	Estt. Total Cost (in Lakh)	Submission end date	UBN No.
1	Surgical Instruments and Disposable Items	250.00	3.10.23 at 5.00 PM	(GHU2324 GRC00042)
2	Orthopaedic Implants & Surgical Item	250.00	3.10.23 at 5.00 PM	(GHU2324 GRC00043)
3	Bedside Leukoreduction filter	30.00	25.09.23 at 5.00 PM	(GHU2324 GLOB00044)
4	Instrument Set for Microtia Ear Surgery	8.00	25.09.23 at 5.00 PM	(GHU2324 GSOB00045)

DIPR/C/14128/2023 SUPERINTENDENT

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड बायतु
क्रमांकः 1700 दिनांकः 13.09.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्याः 04 वर्ष 2023-2024
NIB No. PWD2324A3126

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **सड़क व भवन निर्माण कार्यों** हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 04 कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रू. 322.23 लाख है के लिए ईटेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

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क्रमांकः टी.एस./निविदा फाईल/2023-24/डी-1507-16 दिनांकः 13.09.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या-03/2023-24
NIB Code: PWD2324A3107

सड़क निर्माण के कुल 03 कार्यों हेतु इच्छुक संवेदकों से निविदा दिनांक 25.09.2023 सायं 06:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा के संबंध में अन्य विवरण उपापन वेबसाईट (*http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in और http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in*) पर देखा जा सकता है। उपापन की कुल अनुमानित राशि 639.65 लाख रुपया है।

UBN No.: PWD2324WSOB13673, PWD2324WSOB13676, PWD2324WSOB13678

DIPR/C/14154/2023 (आर.सी. मीना), अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत डूंगरपुर

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत बून्दी
क्रमांकः केशियर/डी-1568 दिनांक : 06.09.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 15/2023-24
NIB code PWD2324A2840

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **वृत बून्दी के अधीन खण्ड बून्दी एवं लाखेरी के अन्तर्गत भवन एवं पथ निर्माण कार्य** के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग /डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त पात्र श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष से पाँच वर्ष की गारण्टी अवधि सहित निम्न कार्यों की निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट **"www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in", http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** तथा **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है। निविदा अपलोड करने की तारीख **12.09.2023 से 26.09.2023** को सायं 6:00 बजे तक।
NIB code **PWD2324A2840**
UBN is. **PWD2324WSOB12512**
UBN is: **PWD2324WSOB12513**
UBN is: **PWD2324WSOB12514**
UBN is: **PWD2324WSOB12515**

DIPR/C/14175/2023 (वी.के.जैन) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत बून्दी

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग सम्भाग भरतपुर
क्रमांकः अमुअ/भरत/त.स./2023-24/डी-1365 दिनांकः 15.09.2023
संशोधन पत्र अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 24 / 2023-24

इस कार्यालय के पत्र क्रमांक एसीई/ भरत/ निविदा/ 2023-24/ डी-1322 दिनांक 06.09.2023 से जारी अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 24/ 2023-24 भरतपुर संभाग के अन्तर्गत जिला भरतपुर, डीग एवं धौलपुर में विभिन्न योजनान्तर्गत सड़क निर्माण कार्य (दोष निवारण अवधि 5 वर्ष सहित) के लिए, जो कि एसपीपी पोर्टल पर NIB No. PWD2324A2832 से प्रकाशित हुई है। निविदा के क्रम संख्या 08 (जिला धौलपुर) पर अंकित कार्य की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन जारी किया जाता है जो वेबसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं "www.sppp.raj.nic.in" पर देखा जा सकता है।

विवरण	पूर्व प्रकाशित तिथियां	संशोधित तिथियां
ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख	दिनांक 08.09.2023 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से दिनांक 19.09.2023 सायं 06.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 08.09.2023 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से दिनांक 26.09.2023 सायं 06.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने की तारीख	दिनांक 08.09.2023 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से दिनांक 19.09.2023 सायं 06.00 बजे तक	दिनांक 08.09.2023 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से दिनांक 26.09.2023 सायं 06.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख	कार्य के सम्मुख अंकित कार्यालय में 20.09.2023 अपराह्न 12.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।	कार्य के सम्मुख अंकित कार्यालय में 27.09.2023 प्रातः 10.00 बजे खोली जायेगी।

निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।
UBN No. PWD2324WLOB12490

DIPR/C/14376/2023 अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सानिवि संभाग, भरतपुर

INBRIEF

Three proposed criminal laws are people-centric: Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the three proposed criminal laws are people-centric, have the flavour of Indian soil and their main purpose is to protect the constitutional, human and personal rights of citizens. Addressing the International Lawyers' Conference organised by the Bar Council of India here, Mr. Shah also said the approach of the three Bills is also to provide justice rather than mete out punishment. The three Bills, which were introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11, will replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, and Indian Evidence Act, 1872 respectively. PTI

Six cattle smugglers arrested in two Uttar Pradesh districts

Six suspected cattle smugglers, including two women, were arrested after encounters with the police in two Uttar Pradesh districts, officials said on Sunday. Two smugglers injured in police firing have been admitted in hospitals, they said. In Budaun, the police received information that some people were slaughtering a cow at the home of one Jummi in the Mohiuddinpur village. When a police team reached the spot, a gunfight ensued, Circle Officer (Ujhani) Shakti Singh said. One suspect was shot in the leg in the police's retaliatory firing. Following the gunfight, the police arrested four people, including two women, he added. PTI

Cong. slams govt. for reducing NEET-PG qualifying percentile

The Congress on Sunday termed "shocking" the Union Health Ministry's decision to reduce the qualifying percentile for NEET-PG 2023 to zero across all categories, and asked who benefited from completely doing away with the minimum basic standards. "This is a complete U-turn from the stand taken by the government in the Delhi High Court last year," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said. He posted a screenshot of a media report on the government telling the High Court last year that it cannot lower the NEET-PG cut-off so that the minimum standard of education is maintained. PTI

Goa Lighthouse festival to showcase maritime history

Union Minister of Ports and Shipping Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Indian Lighthouse Festival at Fort Aguada in Goa on Sunday. The festival, according to the Centre, is aimed at rejuvenating the rich maritime history of the country's 75 iconic lighthouses. It is also aimed to promote lighthouses as tourism destinations and to create opportunities for local communities and businesses. Mr. Sonowal said the 'Lighthouse Festival' is a magnificent celebration that promises to be a captivating journey through time and beauty, a journey that will illuminate the hidden gems of maritime history and reveal the untold stories of the country's historic lighthouses.

A vaccine wheel in U.P. to track newborn immunisation

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Dev Kumari, an accredited social health activist (ASHA) worker employed under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in Budaun district, western Uttar Pradesh, is satisfied.

"At the peak of the second phase of Mission Indradhanush (September 11 to 16), I was able to perform my work efficiently," she says, of the immunisation programme launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2014, targeting children below five to bring them under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).

Contributing to her efficiency is an immunisation wheel, a job aid that helps frontline health workers calculate dates for childhood vaccinations. "The third phase will begin in October, and I hope to be as productive," said Ms. Kumari, whose primary job is to be a health promoter at the village level.

The immunisation wheel, called a *teekakaran chakra* in Hindi, is a simple plastic-laminated cardboard construction developed and funded by the Clinton Foundation, under the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). It consists of two discs, placed one on top of the other, one bigger than the other, and attached with a rivet. The smaller one has details of the vaccines and arrows; the larger one has a calendar with days and months.

Achieving targets: Health workers are now able to achieve 95% coverage in the first year of birth, say reports. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Health workers register a child's birth in what they call the ASHA diary. They use the wheel to match a birth date to the first vaccine. The rest of the dates for the first year of an infant's life (for immunisation at 1.5, 2.5, 3.5, and 9 months) fall into place, without the need for manual calculation. There is a pictorial indication of whether the vaccine is a jab (syringe vector) or orally administered (drop vector). Introduced as a pilot just after COVID-19, the tool was rolled out to 1,66,975 ASHA workers across 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh, by the State government in August 2022; 1,83,600 wheels were distributed. The U.P. Health Department has been working with the foundation in pursuit of at least 90% immunisation coverage.

"It used to be a difficult task to calculate the due date of vaccinations of newborn babies during vaccination drives. With the vaccine wheel, we are able to do it within seconds and prepare the list. It helps us inform parents about dates quickly, so we can spend more time talking to them about the benefits of a particular vaccine [also written out on the card]," said Kumari, who has passed Class 12.

"Many ASHA workers, educated till Class 8 or 10, have increased their speed of work with the wheel. In the year since its use, they are now able to achieve targets of 95% vaccine coverage in the first year of birth," said Mohammad Aslam, District Immunisation Officer (DIO), Budaun.

Training is imparted by the foundation at the district level to block-level health officials, who, in turn, train ASHA workers. The vaccine wheel also has details of the vaccines for pregnant women and for babies from 16 months to 24 months, leading up to the fifth year. There is information about the benefits of timely vaccination that health workers can give parents.

House panel asks govt. to monitor activities of ESIC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The panel notes that the expansion of the ESIC requires a substantial amount of funds

The Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Labour, headed by veteran Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, has asked the Union government to strictly monitor the activities of the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), so that social security benefits reach more workers.

In a report submitted in Parliament during the Special Session last week, the panel reviewed the ESIC's applicability and benefits under the Employees State Insurance Scheme (ESIS), functioning of ESI Hospitals, management of the corpus, and recommended guidelines for organising special awareness campaigns about the scheme.

Reviewing provisions

The panel said there is a need for reviewing the provisions relating to coverage, contribution, entitlement of wages, and the wage limit for coverage under the ESIS. With the passage of time, the committee said, wages have increased and the last revision of the wage ceiling was effected from January 1, 2017. The prevailing wage limit of ₹176 per day for exemption from paying contribution was effected from September 6, 2019.

The panel recommended the setting up of an expert committee for suggesting the changes required in the provisions so that the coverage and the number of insured persons could be increased. The panel expressed concern that both the Labour Ministry and the ESIC are not fully geared to provide extended coverage as envisaged under the Code on Social Security.

"The Committee are of the considered view that preparatory work for implementation of the plan of action already identified by ESIC viz. conduct of extensive surveys; collection of data from Government Departments; identification of common business identifiers for establishments by the ESIC in consultation with EPFO; use of Aadhaar for identification of members/insured persons, etc. need to be undertaken in right earnest," the report said.

Considering the shortage of manpower and lack of proper infrastructure in the ESIC, the panel asked the Centre to fill up the vacancies in hospitals and dispensaries.

The ESIC had accorded approval for initial investment starting at 5%, and gradual increase up to 15% in Exchange Traded Funds (ETF). The panel noted that the expansion of the ESIC requires a substantial amount of funds.

Nine new Vande Bharat trains to link religious, tourist sites

After obtaining passenger feedback, new trains have been provided better amenities; PM says popularity of Vande Bharat trains is on the rise

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said it was unfortunate that not much attention was given earlier to modernising the Railways, and said his government was working for its transformation. Mr. Modi made the remarks by videoconferencing before flagging off nine Vande Bharat trains connecting religious and tourist destinations across 11 States.

He said the speed and scale of infrastructure development was matching the aspirations of 140 crore Indians. The popularity of Vande Bharat trains was constantly rising and over 1.11 crore passengers had already travelled on them.

The Prime Minister noted that 25 Vande Bharat trains were running and now nine more had been added. The day was not far when these trains would connect all parts of the country.

"Indian Railways is the most trusted co-passenger of India's poor and middle-class people. The number of people who travel on the railways in one day is more than the population of many countries," he said.

The new Vande Bharat trains flagged off by Mr. Modi will run between Udaipur-Jaipur; Jamnagar-Ahmedabad; Patna-Howrah; Ranchi-Howrah; Rourkela-Bhubaneswar-Puri; Hyderabad-Bengaluru; Vijayawada-Chennai (via Renigunta); Tirunelveli-Madurai-Chennai; and Kasaragod-Thiruvananthapuram.

Faster connection: The new Kacheguda-to-Yeshvantpur Vande Bharat Express in Hyderabad on Sunday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

These trains, equipped with advanced safety features, including Kavach, will be a key step towards providing modern, speedy and comfortable means of travel to common people, professionals, businessmen, student community and tourists, according to an official statement.

The new trains have a host of features incorporated after passenger feedback. The seat recline angle has been raised from 17.31 degrees to 19.37 degrees, cushioning optimised and the colour of the seat in the executive class changed from red to blue. The changes also include improved accessibility of mobile charging points under the seats, extended footrest and magazine bags for executive class coach-end seats also.

The new features include provision for securing points for wheel chairs. The new train sets have improved air-tightness for better air conditioning with insulation over panels, better roller-blind fabric with more tear strength with less transparency and smooth touch controls for luggage rack lights. The trains have improved aerosol-based fire detection and suppression system.

Arunachal to get 3 new air routes by Oct., says Scindia

Press Trust of India
ITANAGAR

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Sunday announced that three new air routes would be operationalised in Arunachal Pradesh by October.

Inaugurating the newly developed infrastructure at the Tezu airport in Lohit district of the northeastern State, Mr. Scindia said that under the Centre's UDAN-5 scheme, new flight services would begin between Itanagar and New Delhi from the Donyi Polo Airport at Hollongi, near here, besides a service between Itanagar and Jorhat in Assam, and between Ruksin in East Siang district and Itanagar.

Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik (UDAN) is a regional connectivity scheme aimed at developing smaller regional airports to allow common citizens easier access to aviation services.

The Tezu airport is the fourth in the State after Donyi Polo, Pasighat and Ziro airports, and 17th in the northeast.

The Minister said that in the past 65 years, there were only 74 airports in the country but in the nine years of BJP government rule at the Centre, 75 new airports had been constructed.

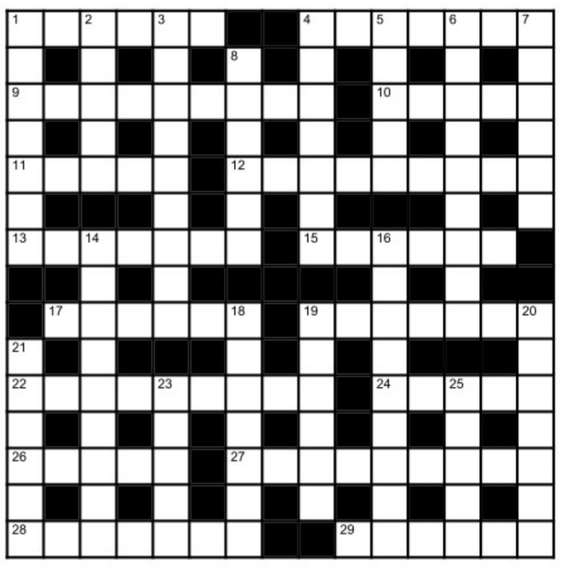
The eight northeastern States received a major development boost after Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, the Union Minister said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13978

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Ruffled policeman seizes heroin, possibly from tips (6)
4 Deer regularly rounded up on briar patch (7)
9 Resolution and a deviation characterises summit (5,4)
10 Editor inspired by origins of vivid imagery characteristic of ancient Hindu texts (5)
11 Strangely, winter's not starting still (5)
12 Spooner's selfie stance with relative in spectacular bridge? (9)
13 Inconclusive lawsuit clears individual, producing a blow? (7)
15 Off without a thought (6)
17 Henry (with the French name) (6)
19 Tear apart hot *aloo* at first in bread (7)
22 Fear drawback in firm freezing target? (9)
24 Fancies Hypatia would like to tour Spain (5)
26 Soldier chasing my dog (5)
27 What the barber makes is top notch (1,3,5)
28 Spartan eater wandering around America (7)
29 Satisfied society, embracing marriage essentially for values (6)

Down

1 Support company backing study (7)
2 Lightweight predator (5)
3 Covered with make-up and drunk (9)
4 Red lips caressed by criminal (7)
5 Stimulate Spooner, say shortly awake (3,2)
6 Porter's negative feedback (3,6)
7 Cryptic clues entertaining new *mamas (6)*
8 Herb held up by Allen nefariously (6)
14 Champions carrying sharp sabre, tense on board (9)
16 Takes time for bud's little girl to run out (9)
18 Country builds imaret close to mosque (7)
19 Supply upper range essentially in agreement before union? (3-3)
20 Responses of readers disheartened after a news broadcast (7)
21 Plant spies to follow American accountant (6)
23 Boost level in reports (5)
25 Expressive motifs or jolly images, basically! (5)

SUDOKU

		2		3		1		
		7			8			
		9	4	2		3	7	
3							4	
2			3	1	7			8
	5							3
	2	3		7	5	4		
			1			8		
		8		4		2		

No.SS5929 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

I	N	T	E	R	E	S	T		K	A	R	A	T	E
N		A		E		T				C		L		N
S	P	E	C	I	F	I	C		A	C	C	O	S	T
I		K		G		P		J		R		H		I
D	I	W	A	N		E	X	U	B	E	R	A	N	T
E		O				N		D		T				L
	U	N	I	T	E	D		O	R	I	F	I	C	E
D		D		A					O		N		D	
E	G	O	T	R	I	P		K	U	N	G	F	U	
M				N		I		A				L		A
E	M	P	T	I	N	E	S	S		B	L	U	N	T
N		R		S		R		H		O		E		T
T	A	I	C	H	I		E	M	I	N	E	N	C	E
I		M		E				I		U		C		S
A	G	E	N	D	A		C	R	E	S	C	E	N	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	6	8	2	5	9	3	7
8	9	5	7	1	3	4	2	6
2	3	7	4	9	6	5	1	8
1	5	9	2	3	7	8	6	4
3	7	2	6	4	8	1	5	9
6	4	8	1	5	9	3	7	2
7	2	3	5	8	4	6	9	1
9	8	1	3	6	2	7	4	5
5	6	4	9	7	1	2	8	3

FAITH

Unquestionable supremacy

Srimad Bhagavatam says that Lord Krishna is responsible for *srishti, stithi* and *pralaya*, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse.

For anything to be made, we need the material to make it, and someone who knows how to make it. Suppose we want a mud pot. The material we need is mud. This is *upaadaana karana*. The potter who makes the pot is the *nimitta karana*. In the case of this world, the Supreme One decided to become many. He gave forms to jivatmas. Since He became many, He is the *upaadaana karana* for the world. But He has also made the world. So, He is also the *nimitta karana*.

Is it possible for the *upaadaana karana* to be the *nimitta karana* too? It is not possible for anyone, except the Lord, because He alone has the knowledge and the power to do what He wants.

In Sanskrit logic, we have two ways of inferring something. The first is *anvaya vyapti*, where we infer something from the presence of something else. For example, if there is smoke, there must be a fire.

The converse is – if there is no fire, there is no smoke. This is *vyatirekha vyapti*. Whichever type of logic one uses, the inevitable conclusion is that the Lord alone performs the tasks of creation, sustenance and dissolution.

Familiarity, indifference and also a letdown

COVERNOTE

Insurance, which promises to reduce uncertainties in life, has been in vogue for long and products have evolved over a period of time, yet the concept is yet to catch the fancy of the public as in the case of mobiles

K. Nitya Kalyani

A product that promises to cut certain uncertainties in this risky life, and does deliver on that promise. A product that has been around for hundreds of years.

A product that is associated with the most prominent of business houses around the world. And yet, prospective buyers avoid both the product and those who sell it.

The disdain for insurance in the Indian market is legendary. Even with the spectacular growth of the industry in the last two-and-a-half decades of reforms, insurance penetration is nowhere near optimum.

Pale shadow

It is a pale shadow of the growth in, say, mobile phone connections or Internet usage.

There are many reasons for it. In the distant past, sentiment and fear that insurance brought bad luck – namely death.

Added to it was the failure of many insurance companies in the first half of the 20th century which was one of the purported reasons for nationalisation of the business.

Affordability, low appeal

Later on, it was affordability and the low appeal of a financial product which suffers from a 'no return on investment' perception (think of motor insurance in a no-claim year). Added to it was the non-marketing/customer orientation of the nationalised insurance sector.

During the era of liberalisation, there has been no dearth of marketing thanks to technology, private investment in search of returns and competition.

Sales rose handsomely, but in pockets. Fire insurance for home and even business premises, where it is not mandated, for example, sell in meagre volumes.

Health cover surge

Health insurance growth has zoomed due to customer demand and motor insurance due to the sheer growth in vehicle population and since part of it is statutory. Commercial health insurance coverage is still dismal and estimates of uninsured vehicles on Indian roads are alarming.

Life insurance growth has been a lot better, but not to potential.

One can ascribe this to presenting products as a confused mix of protection and investment, subverting the ideal image of insurance. When the investments are market led – as in the case of unit-linked insurance policies – a bear market does damage to the very idea of insurance. Annuities are yet to catch the fancy of the public because its significant risk protection is not well-articulated.

More on reasons in the next instalment of Cover Note and, hopefully, some inferences and lessons.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Understanding the importance of human Capital

Human capital is the most precious capital and it is extremely important to protect this asset from a variety of risks it is exposed to, including illness

HUMAN CAPITAL

Gaurav Mashuruwala

> One of the risks human capital is exposed to is illness. It could be mild or life threatening. To be healthy is financial prudence

> Only way to mitigate risk to human capital is to keep investing in a manner which is not exposed to any kind of our human endeavour

Have we ever thought which is our most powerful and strongest forms of capital? The answer is, it is our human capital.

Let me put this in a perspective. All those who are engaged in some kind of occupation generate income. Example, someone who is doing job, earns salary, professionals like me earn by way of professional fee and many who are engaged in entrepreneurial activities make money whenever there is profit.

Number crunching

Now let us do a number crunching. Try and replace the income generated from our human endeavor with our investment in any kind of assets.

May it be investment in equity, either directly or through mutual funds, investment in fixed deposits and/or bonds, debentures, post-office saving schemes or any other Government securities. We may have an extra piece of real estate which may have been leased out, generating lease rental.

Suppose, if we are earning, say, ₹30,000 per month from salary, professional fee or business venture. This will total ₹3,60,000 per year.

If we want to earn ₹3,60,000 a year from our investment in a year either from dividend, interest or rent, how much money we will have to invest?

To earn an interest income of ₹3,60,000 from fixed deposit, if it is giving 8% per annum, we will have to invest ₹45,00,000.

An individual who is earning ₹3,60,000 per year may not have enough funds left of about ₹45,00,000 after taking care of all required expenditure. This calculation will be true in almost all instances, unless there is a large inheritance.

Nearing retirement

Only when we are near retirement we are in position to replace our human capital. If we look at it otherwise, when our other capital is sufficient to replace our regular income from personal endeavour we are ready for retirement or move away from the endeavour of our choice. After that, money will work for us and we will not have to work.

Therefore, human capital is the most precious capital and it is extremely important to protect this asset from a variety of risks it is exposed to.

One of the most frequent risks it is exposed to is illness. This illness could be mild or life threatening. To remain healthy is not only good physiological prudence but also financial prudence.

"Gaurav, I invest all my funds in my business," my cousin brother told me once. "My business gives my best returns and I am in complete control of it." As financial planner, I hear this argument often.

My standard reply is "This is brilliant strategy. However, for this strategy to be successful in long term, please ensure, you never fall ill, never retire and never die."

I am aware while giving this reply that I am being sarcastic but I find it easiest way to drive my point.

High-risk game

Reason businessmen find investment in their occupation most rewarding is because it is extremely high-risk game. If anything happens to their health or ability to perform human endeavour, they will be in misery and at times, could fall into debt.

After noticing the individual is amazed, I clarify.

"If you fall ill, who in your family or near ones will be able run your business with same efficiency and effectively?"

More often than not, my sarcasm hits where it is beneficial to the individual who has said it.

Even to salaried and self-employed professionals, it is important to realise that loss of ability to perform own occupation will put them in mess.

Right strategy

Only way to mitigate risk to human capital is to keep investing in a manner which is not exposed to any kind of our human endeavour.

Having sufficient health insurance cover and having life insurance term is necessary.

Out of variety of risks that our investments are subject to, risk to human capital can be most fatal.

This is because our human capital is the prime source from which we generate funds to create (Read: Invest) other assets.

(The writer is a financial planner and the author of Yogic Wealth)

Can real assets buoy interest?

THINKINVESTOR

Increasing interest in digital assets can be witnessed in the recent times but this cannot lead to passion for real or physical assets fading as they enjoy certain important behavioural attributes

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

There seems to be a rush to digitise financial assets. Non-fungible tokens (NFTs), derivatives on cryptos, and now, several asset management companies in the U.S. are tokenising mutual fund investments. In this article, we look at why the interest in real assets may not wane despite the increasing interest in digital assets.

Divergent interests?

It is not uncommon for individuals to buy both insurance and lottery tickets. The former indicates an individual is risk averse whereas the latter suggests that the same individual is risk seeking. This suggests we can be aggressive in certain areas and very conservative in other areas of life.

It is in this context you need to appreciate the interest in real and digital assets despite contrasting characteristics.

The interest in digital assets can be attributed to two factors. One, young professionals prefer to take exposure to new investment products. And two, digital assets appear to be more secure, given the arguments supporting blockchain technology. The interest in real assets is behavioural. For one, real assets are touch-and-feel assets, unlike financial and digital assets.

So, there is a strong feeling about ownership. For another, such assets typically double-up as consumption and investment assets. Take antiques. You can 'consume' them as personal effects. When you are ready to part with the assets, you can sell them at a higher price. It is, therefore, moot if the recent interest in digital assets will reduce the appetite for real assets.

Conclusion

Digital assets could gain more traction in the coming years. But it is unlikely to lead to fading interest in real assets. For one, sceptics of digital assets will continue to prefer real assets. For another, followers of digital assets may want to invest in real assets to 'diversify' their interests. Also, the supply-side constraint for real assets is more 'real' than that of digital assets. Antiques, for instance, command high value because they are rare (supply-side constraint) and at least 100 years old.

Of course, the supply of, say, bitcoin is controlled. But such constraint is more policy-driven than a 'real' factor, as in the case of antiques or land. The upshot? The novelty factor will drive the demand for digital assets; real assets may continue to attract interest because of their behavioural attributes.

(The author offers training programme for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Flat Rs 76
State Bank of India	11.05-15.05	10,884-11,908	2,177-2,382	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.90-18.25	10,846-12,765	2,169-2,553	Up to 2% (min. Rs 1,000 and max. Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.25-14.75	10,685-11,829	2,137-2,366	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.65-15.65	10,784-12,066	2,157-2,413	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank^	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.40-15.50	10,971-12,027	2,194-2,405	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.15-12.80	10,660-11,325	2,132-2,265	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Minimum Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	14.10	11,660	2,332	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Car Loans

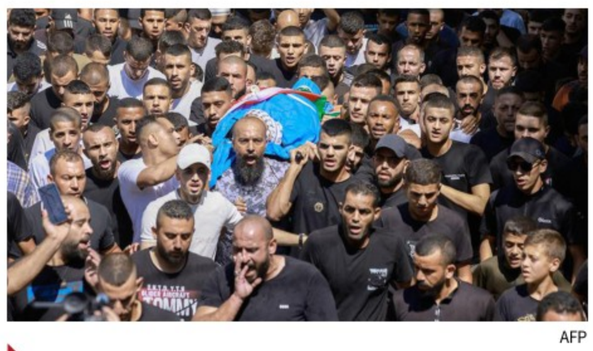
Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	8.75 - 10.50	10,319 - 10,747	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 9.60	10,319 - 10,525	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.70 - 12.10	10,307 - 11,148	Rs 1,500 - Rs 2,000
Canara Bank	8.80 - 11.95	10,331 - 11,110	Nil till 31 December 2023
UCO Bank	8.45 - 10.55	10,246 - 10,759	NIL
State Bank of India*	8.65 - 9.70	10,294-10,550	Up to 0.25% (Rs 750 - Rs 7,500)
IDBI Bank	8.80 - 9.90	10,331-10,599	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra**	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	NIL
Indian Overseas Bank***	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	8.95 onwards	10,367 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.23 - 11.66	10,435 - 11,037	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
South Indian Bank	11.65 - 13.10	11,034 - 11,402	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
IDFC First Bank	9.00 - 13.50	10,379 - 11,505	Up to 3.5%
City Union Bank	14.25 - 14.75	11,699 - 11,829	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

**Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for SBI GREEN CAR (Electric Vehicle).*
***0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders*
****0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers.*

Rates and charges as on September 20 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

TULKAREM

Israeli forces kill two Palestinians in raid in occupied West Bank

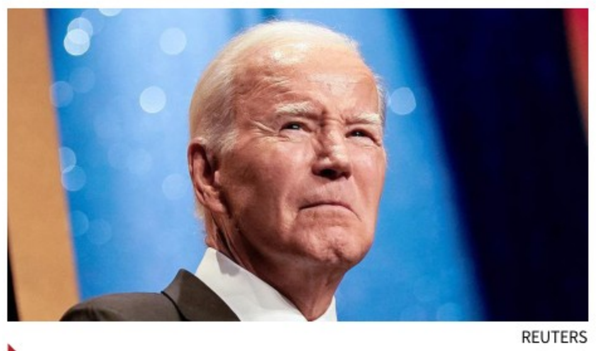


AFP

Israeli forces shot dead two Palestinians in a pre-dawn raid on Sunday in the West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, as the Army confirmed it dismantled a militant "operational command centre" in the occupied territory. Palestinian militant group Hamas claimed one of the deceased to be its fighters. AFP

WASHINGTON

Biden aims to wrest influence from China in Pacific islands at summit



REUTERS

U.S. President Joe Biden is set to host leaders of Pacific island nations with an aim of countering China's ever-growing influence, proffering goodies ranging from an American football experience to shiny new embassies. The summit of leaders from the 18-member Pacific Islands Forum will take place on Monday and Tuesday. AFP

KYIV

Russian airstrikes kill two and wound three in southern Ukraine

AFP

Russian airstrikes on Sunday killed two persons and wounded three others in southern Ukraine's Kherson province as war enters the 20th month. Russian forces struck the city of Beryslav. A woman was killed and three persons were wounded, including a police officer. A 67-year-old woman was killed in an attack on Lvove. AP

BANJSKO

Fighting ongoing after officer killed in north Kosovo attack

REUTERS

Gunmen holed up in a northern Kosovo monastery clashed with authorities on Sunday, according to Prime Minister Albin Kurti, hours after a police officer was killed when a patrol was hit by an ambush involving firearms and explosives. The group of at least 30 were now surrounded by authorities near the village of Banjska. AFP

Refugees leave as Azerbaijan takes control of Karabakh

Ethnic residents of the breakaway territory depart following an offensive launched by Baku; Armenia publicly distances itself from traditional ally Russia due to lack of support offered

Agence France-Presse
KORNIDZOR

Ethnic Armenian refugees began to leave Nagorno-Karabakh on Sunday for the first time since Azerbaijan launched an offensive designed to seize control of the breakaway territory and perhaps end a three-decade-old conflict.

This week's lightning operation could mark a historic geopolitical shift, with Azerbaijan victorious over the separatists and Armenia now publicly distancing itself from its traditional ally Russia.

"Yesterday, we had to put down our rifles. So we left," a man in his thirties from the village of Mets Shen told AFP as a first group of a few dozen people crossed the border and registered with Armenian officials in Kornidzor.

The Armenian Health Ministry said 23 ambulances were carrying seriously wounded citizens of Nagorno-Karabakh to the border, accompanied by medics and Red Cross workers. Crowds of angry relatives gathered on the Armenian side awaiting news.

Crossing over: Refugees from Nagorno-Karabakh arrive at a checkpoint in Kornidzor in Armenia on Sunday. REUTERS

As drama unfolded on the border, Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan – himself a target of protests over Karabakh's defeat – sought to deflect the blame onto long-standing ally Russia, signalling a breakdown in the countries' security pact.

CSTO pact

In nationally televised comments, the Armenian leader said the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) and Moscow-Yerevan military-political cooperation were "insufficient" to protect the country, suggesting that he would seek new alliances. The CSTO members pledge to defend one another from outside attack.

But, bogged down in its own war in Ukraine, Russia refused to come to Armenia's assistance in the latest Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, arguing that Yerevan itself had recognised the disputed region as part of Azerbaijan.

Leaders to meet

Mr. Pashinyan said Armenia should ratify the treaty which established the International Criminal Court (ICC), which has issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin over the Ukraine war.

Armenia also announced that Mr. Pashinyan would meet his Azerbaijani counterpart President Ilham Aliyev at the summit of the European Political Community in the Spanish city of Granada on October 5.

NASA's first asteroid samples land on earth after release from spacecraft

Associated Press

NASA's first asteroid samples fetched from deep space parachuted into the Utah desert on Sunday to cap a seven-year journey.

In a flyby of earth, the Osiris-Rex spacecraft released the sample capsule from one lakh kilometres out. The small capsule landed four hours later on a remote expanse of military land, as the mothership set off after another asteroid.

Remains from Bennu

"We have touchdown!" Flight Control announced, immediately repeating the news since the landing occurred a few minutes early.

Scientists estimate the capsule holds at least a cup of rubble from the carbon-rich asteroid known as Bennu, but won't know for sure until the container is opened. Some spilled and floated away when the spacecraft scooped up too much and rocks jammed the container's lid during collection three years ago.

Japan, the only other country to bring back asteroid samples, gathered about a teaspoon in a pair of asteroid missions.

The pebbles and dust delivered on Sunday represent the biggest haul from beyond the moon. Preserved building blocks from the dawn of our solar system 4.5 billion years ago, the samples will help scientists better understand how Earth and life formed.

Murdoch's stepping down is not enough to restore the public's trust in media

NEWS ANALYSIS

A.S. Panneerselvan

Some powerful media outlets are viewing Rupert Murdoch's announcement on September 21 – that the 92-year-old is stepping down as chairman of Fox Corporation and News Corp, the television and newspaper empires he has built up over more than 70 years – with scepticism. For instance, the *Economist* has asserted that "Rupert Murdoch isn't going anywhere just yet" and the magazine is of the firm opinion that as "chairman emeritus" he will still wield plenty of clout. While we are not sure of the future trajectory, we need to access his role as as a media mogul seriously.

There are many defining scholarly works that help understand the far-reaching impact of Reaganomics and Thatcherism in the world of political economy. The impact created by Rupert Murdoch, with his global expansion in the information milieu, is similar to that of the Anglo-American impact of the early 1980s. Mr. Murdoch led the expansion of the media market at the cost of its credibility, trust and impact. The democratic deficits we face today have a direct relationship to the undermining of the editorial independence of free media. Many fail to understand the relationship between credible information and a vibrant democracy. What happens when we reduce news media to just an industry devoid of its socio-political obligations? Mr. Murdoch was at the forefront of reducing news media to just a business enterprise and yet his far-reaching influence has not been properly studied.

Rupert Murdoch

Evans's take

Sir Harold Evans, the legendary editor of London-based *The Sunday Times* from 1967 to 1981, has documented the dark side of Mr. Murdoch , for instance, his empowering of managers at the cost of editors in his book *Good Times, Bad Times*. His revised introduction to the book's later editions after the phone-hacking crisis is a clear indication that what happened later had its origins in the way he was permitted to renege on his solemn promises to the English parliament. The phone hacking case is not only about the unethical behaviour of the tabloid press, but it was also an act that undermined the trust factor in news media itself, and Mr. Murdoch was central to this downward slide

It is pertinent here to recollect what Sir Evans wrote: "The experiences I describe in *Good Times, Bad Times* have turned out to be eerily emblematic. The dark and vengeful undertow I sensed and then experienced in the last weeks of my relationship with Murdoch correctly reflected something morally out of joint with the way he ran his company. In the decades that followed my year at the Times, the inside rot was matched only by the menace that came to represent the civil discourse and the whole political establishment." Sir Evans's writings help us understand the full import of his declaration that 'Rupert Murdoch is the stiletto, a man of method, a cold-eyed manipulator'.

It is a fact that Leveson's commission was constituted in the United Kingdom because of the excesses committed by the tabloids owned by Mr. Murdoch. In his final report, Justice Leveson said that the U.K. press had for too long "wreaked havoc in the lives of innocent people." He criticised the transactional relationship between powerful newspaper owners, editors and politicians and called for more transparency in their contacts. It was the Murdoch press at the centre of this controversy.

Mr. Murdoch has stepped down at a time when the legacy media is under severe financial strain. But, the present digital information ecology seem to have internalised the model developed by him and it needs more than just a change in the person at the helm to restore trust in credible news.

The writer is a Fellow at the Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai

Police damage 75 graves of minority group in Pak.

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

Nearly 75 graves and minarets of two worship places belonging to the Ahmadi minority community have been demolished by the police and radical Islamists in Pakistan's Punjab province.

An official of the Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya Pakistan said: "Police under the pressure of Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) desecrated 74 graves of Ahmadis by destroying their tombstones in Daska city."

In the other two separate incidents, minarets of Ahmadi worship places were destroyed by the TLP and the police in the Sheikhupura and Narang Mandi areas of Punjab.

U.K. police put down guns over shooting case verdict

Associated Press
LONDON

London's police force said on Sunday that more than 100 officers have refused to conduct armed patrols after a colleague was charged with murder in the fatal shooting of an unarmed Black man.

A Metropolitan Police marksman was charged on Wednesday over the September 2022 death of Chris Kaba, 24.

The case renewed allegations of institutional racism within the London police department.

Sport

Verstappen's 13th win secures team title for Red Bull

JAPANESE GP

Associated Press
SUZUKA

Runaway leader Max Verstappen returned to dominant form on Sunday, winning the Japanese Grand Prix and moving a step closer to securing his third consecutive Formula One drivers' championship.

The Red Bull driver, who missed out on the podium a week ago in Singapore, started from pole and held on for his 13th win of the season.

With Verstappen's win, Red Bull secured this year's constructors' title, their sixth overall and second in a row.

McLaren driver Lando Norris was second, 19.4 seconds behind Verstappen, while teammate Australia rookie Oscar Piastri was third for his first F1 podium. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was fourth followed by Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton. Verstappen, who increased his lead over teammate Sergio Perez to 177 points, could wrap up his third consecutive title at the Qatar Grand Prix in early October.

Mission accomplished: Verstappen and team principal Hornet celebrate with their Red Bull mates after sealing the constructors' championship on Sunday. REUTERS

Conditions on Sunday were ideal and Verstappen took full advantage.

The results:

1. Verstappen (Red Bull) in 1hr, 30 min 58.421sec, 2. Norris (McLaren) +19.387s, 3. Piastri (McLaren) 36.494, 4. Leclerc (Ferrari) 43.998, 5. Hamilton (Mercedes) 49.376, 6. Sainz Jr. (Ferrari) 50.221, 7. Russell (Mercedes) 57.659, 8. Alonso (Aston Martin) 1:14.725, 9. Ocon (Alpine) 1:19.678, 10. Gasly (Alpine) 1:23.155; **1 lap:** 11. Lawson (AlphaTauri), 12. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri), 13. Zhou (Alfa Romeo), 14. Nico Hülkenberg (Haas), 15. Magnussen (Haas).

DNF: Bottas (Alfa Romeo), Sergio Perez (Red Bull), Stroll (Aston Martin), Sargeant (Williams), Albon (Williams).

Standings (top five): Drivers: 1. Verstappen 400 pts., 2. Perez 223, 3. Hamilton, 190, 4. Alonso 174, 5. Sainz Jr 150.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 623 pts., 2. Mercedes 305, 3. Ferrari 285, 4. Aston Martin 221, 5. McLaren 172.

Painted Apache wins feature event

HYDERABAD: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey's Painted Apache, ridden by P. Ajeeth Kumar, won the Nawab Sultan Ali Khan Memorial Cup, the main event of Sunday's (Sept. 24) races. The winner is trained by L.V.R. Deshmukh.

1. TWIN CITIES PLATE (DIV. I): RAGNAROK (G. Naresh) 1, Silver Act (B. Nikhil) 2, Hoping Star (Mohit Singh) 3 and Deccan Daisy (P. Sai Kumar) 4. Not run: Flashing Memories. 2, 1 and 3/4. 1m, 8.74s. ₹516 (w), 90, 14 and 16 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 42, SHW: 187 and 10, FP: 2,427, Q: 535, Tanala: 18,994. Favourite: Silver Act. Owner: Mr. P. Ranga Raju. Trainer: M.R. Chauhan.

2. ROCK OF GIBRALTAR PLATE: ASHWA GAJRAJ (Vivek G) 1, Encore (A. Imran Khan) 2, Great Giver (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Deccan Spirit (P. Sai Kumar) 4. Not run: Young Diana. 1, 4-1/2 and 1-1/2. 1m, 27.12s. ₹58 (w), 15, 10 and 11 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 31, SHW: 21 and 11, FP: 175, Q: 55, Tanala: 358. Favourite: Encore. Owner: Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chauhan. Trainer: G. Shashikanth.

3. S.N. REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: STUNNING ART (Suraj Narredu) 1, Sacred Bond (Afroz Khan) 2, Veneno (Mohit Singh) 3 and Trishul (Surya Prakash) 4. 3/4, 1-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m. 40.52s. ₹24 (w), 10, 26 and 16 (p). SHP: 117, THP: 63, SHW: 20 and 28, FP: 357, Q: 187, Tanala: 3,337. Favourite: Stunning Art. Owners: Mr. Rajesh Sahgal & Mr. Sultan Singh rep. Sohna Stud Farm Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Magan Singh.

4. MAJOR GENERAL NAWAB KHUSRU JUNG BAHADUR MEMORIAL TROPHY: ANAB E SHAHI (A. Imran Khan) 1, D Right Time (Vive G) 2, Soorya Vahan (B. Nikhil) 3 and Royal Pal (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. 4-3/4, 9-1/4 and 1. 1m, 26.89s. ₹13 (w) 12, 10 and 19 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 29, SHW: 10 and 13, FP: 29, Q: 23, Tanala: 135. Favourite: Anab E Shahi. Owners: M/s. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Chitturi Krishna Kannaiah, Syed Ainuddin Arif, Vishal Gupta & Mrs. Sudha Gupta. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

5. RAJA SAHEB OF CHALLAPALLI MEMORIAL CUP: BLISSFUL (R.S. Jodha) 1, Avancia (Suraj Narredu) 2, Dyanoosh (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Wind Sprite (Afroz Khan) 4. Shd, 1-1/2 and Neck. 1m, 13.49s. ₹163 (w), 49, 17 and 15 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 68, SHW: 74 and 27, FP: 610, Q: 395, Tanala: 14,789. Favourite: Avancia. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

6. JATPROLE CUP: DIVINE CONNECTION (Md. Ekram Alam) 1, Delhi Heights (B. Nikhil) 2, D Minchu (Vivek G) 3 and Indershanush (Shivansh) 4. 3-3/4, Nose and 1/2. 1m, 14.78s. ₹27 (w) 11, 16 and 15 (p). SHP: 53, THP: 42, SHW: 13 and 20, FP: 131, Q: 90, Tanala: 254. Favourite: D Minchu. Owner: Mr. Alagappa Murugappan. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

7. NAWAB SULTAN ALI KHAN MEMORIAL CUP: PAINTED APACHE (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Karanveer (P. Sai Kumar) 2, Tiger Mountain (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 3 and N R I Superpower (Abhay Singh) 4. 2-1/2, 3-3/4 and 1-1/2. 2m, 6.74s. ₹42 (w), 17 and 17 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 33, SHW: 28 and 17, FP. 150, Q: 84, Tanala: 224. Favourite: Tiger Mountain. Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

8. P.V.G. RAJU MEMORIAL CUP: ACROBAT (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 1, Detective (Suraj Narredu) 2, Dream Station (B. Nikhil) 3 and N R I Ultrapower (Abhay Singh) 4. 3-1/2, 8-1/4 and Head. 1m, 39.27s. ₹47 (w), 13, 10 and 24 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 73, SHW: 59 and 10, FP: 148, Q: 39, Tanala: 1,212. Favourite: Detective. Owner: Mrs. Lingala Aarti Reddy. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

9. TWIN CITIES PLATE (DIV. II): RUBY RED (Suraj Narredu) 1, Maverick (B. Nikhil) 2, Eminency (Surya Prakash) 3 and Dali's Champion (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 4-1/4, 6-1/2 and 3. 1m, 7.14s. ₹14 (w), 10, 10 and 19 (p). SHP: 19, THP: 29, SHW: 10 and 18, FP: 28, Q: 22, Tanala: 60. Favourite: Ruby Red. Owners: Mr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla & Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla rep. Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Saleem Fazelbhoy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

Jackpot: (i) 70%: ₹1,02,262 (c/o) & 30%: 43,826 (1 tkt.); (ii) 70%: 32,952 (8 tkts.) & (ii) 10, 270 (11 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: (i) 9,252 (8 tkts), (ii) 3,088 (22 tkts.). Treble: (i) 17,055 (c/o), (ii) 751 (32 tkts.), (iii) 652 (36 tkts.).

ON THE PODIUM

Lekh Ram and Babu Lal clinch bronze in men's pair rowing

Lekh Ram and Babu Lal Yadav clinched a bronze medal for India in men's pair rowing in the Asian Games in Hangzhou on Sunday. The two finished third by clocking 6:50.41s after Hong Kong China and Uzbekistan finished first and second respectively. The Indian pair had crossed the 1500m mark with a time of 5:05.11s.

ONE-SIDED CONTEST

Nikhat dominates Thi Tam for a unanimous 3-0 win

Nikhat Zareen turned her first-round bout into a one-sided contest, dominating Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Tam for a unanimous 3-0 win in the 50kg category. Nikhat took early lead with all 10-8 scores in the first round, two judges gave 10-9 in her favour and three did 10-8 in the second round and then wrapped it up with all 10-9s in the third.

MAKING THE GRADE

Indian men's football team qualifies for knockouts

The Indian men's football team entered the Round of 16 on Sunday with a draw 1-1 against Myanmar in the final match of Group A of the Asian Games. With four points from three games, India finished second in Group A. The Indian women, however, bowed out after a 0-1 loss to Thailand in their Group B match.

MEMORABLE OUTING

Gill smashes fifth ODI century in 2023, joins elite company

India's opening batter Shubman Gill joined the elite company of legends like Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Rahul Dravid and Shikhar Dhawan, as he became the seventh player from the country to smash a fifth century in a calendar year in One-Day International cricket.

Arvind-Arjun duo adds a silver sheen to India's day in the water

The Indians finish second in lightweight double sculls with a timing of 6:28.18s; the country also claims silver in the men's eight event; Babu Lal and Lekh Ram's bronze in the men's pair event makes it a fruitful day for the rowers

Medal glow: The rowing contingent equalled India's tally from the sport in the last two editions when it won two silvers and a bronze on Sunday. IOA, PTI

ASIAN GAMES

Uthra Ganesan
HANGZHOU

Till about a month back, Arvind Singh was unsure if he would be able to participate in the Asian Games – and Arjun Lal Jat wasn't going to pair with anyone else. A lower back pain, common among rowers, had put a question mark on the duo's Asiad appearance.

On Sunday, the most experienced of Indian rowers here answered everyone by finishing second in the lightweight double sculls – the first-ever silver in the event after three bronze medals including at the 2018 edition by Rohit Kumar and Bhagwan Singh - to begin a fruitful day for India in the water as three of the four medal contenders ended on the podium on the opening day of the 19th Asian Games.

Arvind-Arjun finished in 6:28:18, five seconds behind winner China. This has already equalled India's medals from the sport in the last two editions with four more medals on offer on Monday.

Babu Lal Yadav and Lekh Ram added a bronze in the men's pairs while the octet – Neeraj, Naresh Kalwaniya, Neetish Kumar, Charanjeet Singh, Jaswinder Singh, Bheem Singh, Punit Kumar, Ashish and Dhananjay Pande – finished strongly to overtake Indonesia in the final 500m and added another silver on the day.

But the spotlight was clearly on Arvind and Arjun, the only ones with Olympic experience. Having been among the reserves in 2018, the duo was determined to not just qualify and participate here but also change the colour of the medal from five years back.

Hard work pays off

"It was a lot of hard work from everyone to get back into action in one month. While training in India, we were not able to practice the way we wanted to. But it helped a once we reached here almost 15 days back and got a feel of the competition and the place, it helped a lot," Arvind admitted.

Arjun and Arvind joined the Indian army at the same time – Arjun in Rajputana Rifles and Arvind in Bengal Engineering Corp – the two, both Naib Subedars, have been rowing together for almost five years.

"When we joined, coming from places like Jaipur and Bulandshahar, neither of us even knew what rowing was. Olympian Bajrang Lal Takhar (here with the team) selected me, took me to the Army Rowing Node in Pune and guided me all through. He has had a big role in our success," Arjun declared.

Ramita upstages Mehuli for bronze

Terrific trio: Ramita, Mehuli and Ashi with their silver medals in the 10m air rifle team event. Ramita also bagged the bronze in the individual event. PTI

Uthra Ganesan
HANGZHOU

The way multi-disciplinary sporting events are scheduled, shooting invariably becomes a harbinger of India's performances – either a medal glut or a barren run. The Indian women on Sunday set the stage for the former with a silver – India's first at Hangzhou – and a bronze to open the account on the opening day that India finished with five medals but no gold.

Ramita Jindal outgunned senior pro Mehuli Ghosh to finish third in the 10m air rifle with 230.1 points over her 22 shots. Mehuli finished fourth with 208.3 points, hours after the two combined, along with Ashi Chouksey, to get silver in the team event with a total of 1886 behind China's 1896.6.

Competing in her first Asian Games and only in her second year on the senior circuit, Ramita was unflustered in the face of not just the challenge on the range but also the barrage of questions after. "I knew I would win a medal but I was more focused on the process, to win two medals on the opening day is special," she said.

The 19-year-old kept abreast of the leaders all through – she had just one score under 10, a 9.9 on the 16th – but was unable to get the better of the Chinese duo of World No. 1 Han Jiayu and 17-year old Yuting Huang, the latter winning gold with a new games record of 252.7 points, bettering compatriot Ruozhu Zhao's score set five years back.

THE INDIA SHOW

A look at some Indian performances on Sunday:

Boxing: Women: 54kg (round-of-16): Preeti bt Silina (Jor); **50kg (round-of-32):** Nikhat bt Thi Tam (Vie).

Chess: Individual: Men: Round 2: Vidit lost to Nogerbek (Kaz); Minh (Vie) drew with Arjun; **Round 1:** Rahman (Ban) lost to Vidit; Arjun bt Paulo (Phi).

Women: Round 2: Le Thao (Vie) lost to Humpy; Harika bt Qianyun (Sgp); **Round 1:** Humpy bt Mobina (IRI); Rouda (UAE) lost to Harika.

Hockey: Men (Pool A): bt Uzbekistan 16-0.

Rowing (Final-A): Men: Lightweight double sculls: **Silver** (Arjun, Arvind); Double sculls: Sixth (Satnam, Parminder); **Pair: Bronze** (Babu Lal, Lekh Ram); Men's Eight: **Silver;** Women's Four: Fifth.

Shooting: Women's 10m air rifle (finals): Individual: Ramita (**bronze**), Mehuli (fourth); Team: **Silver** (Ramita, Ashi, Mehuli). Men's 25m rapid fire pistol: Individual (qualification phase 1): 6. Anish, 12. Vijayveer, 16. Adarsh; Team (phase 1): Third (Adarsh, Anish, Vijayveer).

Swimming (finals): Men: 100m backstroke: Srihari (sixth); Women: 4x100m freestyle relay: Seventh.

Table tennis (team): Quarterfinals: Men: lost to South Korea 0-3; Round-of-16: Men: bt Kazakhstan 3-2; Women: lost to Thailand 2-3.

Tennis: Men: Singles (round 2): Nagal bt Leung (Mac) 6-0, 6-0; Doubles (round 1): Saketh & Ramkumar bt Abhishek & Pradip (Nep) 6-2, 6-3.

Volleyball: Men: Classification 1st-6th: lost to Japan 0-3.

Pooja's spell puts India in gold medal match

Aashin Prasad
HANGZHOU

The Indian seamers, led by Pooja Vastrakar, set up an eight-wicket victory against Bangladesh in the women's cricket semifinal of the Asian Games on Sunday.

Bangladesh was shot out for 51 and India chased it down inside nine overs.

Pooja and the 18-year-old debutant seamer Titas Sadhu put the ball in the right areas and moved the ball both ways.

Titas, who got her India cap from Smriti Mandhana, picked up her first international wicket when she rattled the stumps of Shorna Akter with an inswinging yorker. Only Sultana managed to get into doubles figures.

India will take on Sri Lanka which beat Pakistan in the other semifinal. The final will be played on Monday.

The scores: Bangladesh 51 in 17.5 overs (Pooja Vastrakar 4/17) lost to India 52/2 in 8.2 overs.

Japan too hot for India

Japan, which has sent its second-string volleyball team to the Asian Games as it is preparing for the Paris Olympics qualifiers, quelled India's challenge with a 25-16, 25-18, 25-17 win in a top six clash at Shaoxing on Sunday.

INDIANS IN ACTION TODAY

A look at some Indian players/teams who will compete on Monday (all times IST):

Boxing: Women: 66kg (round-of-16): Arundhati vs. Yang (Chn), 4.45 p.m.; Men (round-of-32): 51kg : Deepak vs. Ariffin (Mas), 5.15 p.m.; 71kg: Nishant vs. Dipesh (Nep), 7 p.m.

Chess: Individual rounds (12.30 p.m. onwards): Men: Vidit and Arjun; Women: Humpy and Harika.

Cricket: Women's gold medal match: vs. Sri Lanka, 11.30 a.m.

Rowing (Final-A, 7 a.m. onwards): Men's Single sculls (Balraj); Men's Four; Men's Quadruple Sculls; Women's Eight.

Shooting (6.30 a.m. onwards): Men's 10m air rifle (qualification, individual and team finals): Divyansh, Aishwary Pratap, Rudrankksh; Men's 25m rapid fire pistol (individual qualification phase 2 and final, team phase 2): Anish, Vijayveer, Adarsh.

Swimming (heats and final, 7.30 a.m. onwards): Men: 50m backstroke: Srihari; 50m freestyle: Anand, Virdhawal; 100m breaststroke: Likith; Women: 50m backstroke: Maana; 200m freestyle: Dhinidhi; 200m IM: Hashika.

Tennis: Singles and doubles matches, 7.30 a.m. onwards.

Gill, Shreyas tons, Suryakumar blitz give India the series

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
INDORE

With a mighty batting lineup high on confidence, on a track flatter than an LED screen the match being televised on, and against an attack of which four bowlers had played just 35 ODIs among them, the question was if the Men in Blue could touch 400.

No, they didn't. They made only 399 for five. How disappointing.

That was still 10 runs more than they made, at the beginning of the year, against New Zealand on this ground, the Holkar Cricket Stadium. It proved more than enough to win the second ODI in front of a full house on Sunday, by 99 runs (DLS), and thus the series with a game to spare.

Revised target

Australia, set a revised target – because of rain – of 317 off 33 overs, could manage only 217, and slid to its fifth defeat on the trot. The final match of the series will be played at Rajkot on Wednesday.

The victory also ensured India would retain its No. 1 ranking going into next month's World Cup. More importantly, a couple of men from the squad for the quadrennial tournament came up with knocks that should make them, and the team management, rather pleased.

Rousing knock: Shreyas made his aggressive intent clear right from the word go. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Shreyas Iyer (105, 90b, 11x4, 3x6) got the Indian innings going with a flurry of quality strokes and Suryakumar Yadav (72 n.o., 37b, 6x4, 6x6) finished it off in spectacular style. And yes, in between, there was a customary, brilliant innings from Shubman Gill (104, 97b, 6x4, 4x6). Not to mention a second captain's innings in as many matches from K.L. Rahul (52, 38b, 3x4, 3x6) and an 18-ball 31 (2x4, 2x6) by Ishan Kishan.

Ruturaj Gaikwad was the only man to miss out on the feast, though the opener had begun with a couple of sweetly struck boundaries in the opening over, bowled by debutant left-arm quick Spencer Johnson.

But he soon was caught behind off Josh Hazlewood.

Out came Shreyas to the middle. He looked in great touch, and determined to make a big score, after being troubled by a painful back injury for several months.

Along with Gill, who would make his fifth ODI century of the year, he destroyed the inexperienced Australian attack – skipper Pat Cummins sat out – as the duo added 200 off just 164 balls for the second wicket. They took turns to become the aggressive batter and the more aggressive batter, even as they ran their singles well. Then Rahul, Kishan and Suryakumar, whose fifty in the last match seems to have given him a lot of confidence, exploded, and took India to its highest ever total against Australia.

Australia's chase, which was always going to be steep, was made steeper by Prasidh Krishna, who struck twice in succession in his first over, as he removed Matthew Short and the day's captain Steve Smith.

The third-wicket stand of 80 off 68 balls between David Warner (53, 39b, 7x4,1x6) and Marnus Labuschagne (27, 31b, 4x4) was broken by R. Ashwin, who bowled rather well to finish with three for 41.

Even India's back-up men are in form.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Ruturaj Gaikwad c Carey b Hazlewood 8 *(12b, 2x4)*, Shubman Gill c Carey b Green 104 *(97b, 6x4, 4x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Short b Abbott 105 *(90b, 11x4, 3x6)*, K.L. Rahul b Green 52 *(38b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Ishan Kishan c Carey b Zampa 31 *(18b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 72 *(37b, 6x4, 6x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 13 *(9b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-13, nb-1): 14; Total (for five wkts. in 50 overs): 399.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-16 (Ruturaj, 3.4 overs), 2-216 (Shreyas, 30.5), 3-243 (Gill, 34.5), 4-302 (Kishan, 40.2), 5-355 (Rahul, 45.6).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Johnson 8-0-61-0, Hazlewood 10-0-62-1, Abbott 10-0-91-1, Green 10-0-103-2, Zampa 10-0-67-1, Short 2-0-15-0.

AUSTRALIA
(Target: 317 in 33 overs)
Matthew Short c Ashwin b Prasidh 9 *(8b, 2x4)*, David Warner lbw b Ashwin 53 *(39b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Steve Smith c Gill b Prasidh 0 *(1b)*, Marnus Labuschagne b Ashwin 27 *(31b, 4x4)*, Josh Inglis lbw b Ashwin 6 *(9b, 1x4)*, Alex Carey b Jadeja 14 *(12b, 2x4)*, Cameron Green run out 19 *(13b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Sean Abbott b Jadeja 54 *(36b, 4x4, 5x6)*, Adam Zampa b Jadeja 5 *(5b, 1x4)*, Josh Hazlewood b Shami 23 *(16b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Spencer Johnson (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-3, w-3): 7; Total (in 28.2 overs): 217.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-9 (Short, 1.2), 2-9 (Smith, 1.3), 3-89 (Labuschagne, 12.5), 4-100 (Warner, 14.1), 5-101 (Inglis, 14.5), 6-128 (Carey, 18.2), 7-135 (Green, 19.5), 8-140 (Zampa, 20.4), 9-217 (Hazlewood, 27.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Shami 6-0-39-1, Prasidh 6-0-56-2, Ashwin 7-0-41-3, Shardul 4-0-35-0, Jadeja 5.2-0-42-3.

Toss: Australia.
PoM: Shreyas Iyer.
India won by 99 runs (DLS method) to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in three-match series.
Third and final ODI: September 27, Rajkot, 1.30 p.m.

INBRIEF

Lewandowski, Cancelo help Barca snatch comeback win

Robert Lewandowski scored two late goals before Joao Cancelo snatched the 89th-minute winner to lead Barcelona to a 3-2 comeback win over Celta Vigo at home in the Spanish league on Saturday. Rafa Benitez's side was ahead 2-0 before Lewandowski struck in the 81st minute. Cancelo then set up Lewandowski to equalise in the 85th before the Portugal right back completed the turnaround. Barcelona is tied on points with the surprising Girona at the top of the table after its fellow Catalan club routed Mallorca 5-3.

The results:
LaLiga: Barcelona 3 (Lewandowski 81, 85, Cancelo 89) Celta Vigo 2 (Larsen 19, Douvikas 76); **Serie A:** Sassuolo 4 (Lauriente 12, Berardi 41, Pinamonti 82, Gatti 90+5-og) Juventus 2 (Vina 21-og, Chiesa 78); Empoli 0 lost to Inter Milan 1 (Dimarco 51); Atalanta 2 (Lookman 33, Pasalic 76) bt Cagiliari 0; Udinese 0 lost to Fiorentina 2 (Martínez 32, Bonaventura 90+2).

Tamil Nadu, Kerala clinch 3x3 National basketball titles

Tamil Nadu and Kerala won the men's and women's titles in the National 3x3 basketball championships in Chennai on Sunday. TN and Kerala received ₹3 lakh each. Aadhav Arjuna, president, Basketball Federation of India, gave away the prizes.

The results (finals): **Men**: TN 17 bt Punjab 16; **Women**: Kerala 20 bt Delhi 15.

Diaz's brace does the trick for MCFC against NEUFC

Mumbai City FC, the Indian Super League (ISL) Shield winner last season, started its campaign with a hard-fought 2-1 win against NorthEast United in ISL-10 at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati on Sunday. Des Buckingham's side struck first when Lallianzuala Chhangte set up Jorge Pereyra Diaz in the 26th minute. But NEUFC replied immediately as Parthib Gogoi found the target. Diaz, however, helped the Islanders regain control as he produced a clinical finish in the 38th minute after Mehtab Singh set him up in the box.

The result: NEUFC 1 (Parthib 32) lost to Mumbai City FC 2 (Diaz 26 & 38).

LIVE TELECAST

Asian Games: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 11.30 a.m.
ISL: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8 p.m.

Bezzecchi reigns with a perfect race; Martin, Quartararo complete podium

The VR46 Racing rider's third win of the season comes with a hat-trick of pole position, race win and the fastest lap of the event

MOTOGP

S. Dipak Ragav
GREATER NOIDA

Speed and style: Bezzecchi set the track ablaze with his pace, winning it with a healthy margin of nearly nine seconds. R.V. MOORTHY

He came, he saw, he conquered. From Friday's first practice session, Marco Bezzecchi was at one with his VR46 Racing Bike.

On Sunday, the Italian rider produced the perfect race, winning the inaugural Indian Grand Prix MotoGP race at a canter at the Buddh International Circuit.

The 24-year-old, who started from pole position, set the track ablaze with his pace, winning it with a healthy margin of nearly nine seconds. Pramac Racing's Jorge Martin and Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo completed the podium.

Biggest loser
The big loser on the day, though, was championship leader Francesco Bagnaia, who crashed from second place on lap 13 of the 21-lap race, gifting 20 points to his rivals Martin and Bezzechhi.

Behind the top-three, six-time champion Marc Marquez, also had an off day as he crashed when running fourth before recovering to finish ninth.

At the start, Bezzecchi lost the lead when Martin and Bagnaia breezed past him, with the latter then nosing ahead of Martin.

However, the VR46 Racing rider fought back immediately, getting Martin before taking the lead from Bagnaia on the start-finish straight at the start of the second lap.

Once in the lead, Bezzecchi flew into the distance as he cruised to his third win of the season and also secured a hat-trick of pole position, race win, and the fastest lap of the race.

The win made up for the disappointment of Saturday's Sprint race in which he was hit from behind by his teammate Luca Marini and dropped down the pack at the start of the race. Still, he managed a sensational recovery drive to finish fifth, demonstrating his searing pace.

Visibly exhausted
It was a tough race for Martin, who was visibly exhausted in the hot conditions and had to hang on to his dear life to finish second.

After running second in the early part of the race, Martin started struggling, allowing Bagnaia to get back at him with a beautiful pass around the parabola section of the track.

With second place in his pocket, the reigning champion looked set to extend his 33-point lead before crashing out in the very next lap.

A struggling Martin then came under attack from Quartararo and, on the last lap of the race, made a mistake into turn four, allowing the latter to get ahead but got the position a few corners later.

With a Sprint win and a second-place finish this weekend, Martin cut his deficit to Bagnaia from 36 to just 13 points with seven rounds left in the calendar, setting up a thrilling fight for the title.

The results:
1. Marco Bezzecchi (VR46 Racing) 36:59.157, 2. Jorge Martin (Pramac Racing) +8.649, 3. Fabio Quartararo (Yamaha) 8.855, 4. Brad Binder (KTM Factory Racing) 12.643, 5. Joan Mir (Repsol Honda) 13.214, 6. Johann Zarco (Pramac Racing) 14.673, 7. Franco Morbidelli (Yamaha) 16.946, 8. Maverick Vinales (Aprilia Racing) 17.191, 9. Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda) 19.118, 10. Raul Fernandez (RNF Team) 26.504, 11. Takaaki Nakagami (LCR Honda) 28.521, 12. Miguel Oliveira (RNF Team) 29.088, 13. Pol Espargaro (GasGas Factory Racing) 29.728, 14. Jack Miller (KTM Factory Racing) 31.324, 15. Stefan Bradl (LCR Honda) 35.782, 16. Michelle Pirro (Ducati) 49.242.
DNF: Fabio Di Giannantonio (Gresini Ducati), Fracesco Bagnaia (Ducati), Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia Racing), Augusto Fernandez (GasGas Factory Racing).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Golden day: The Karnataka team that claimed the sub junior girls' National football title in Belagavi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

National tenpin bowlingfrom today
The ARC 32nd National tenpin bowling championship, organised by the Tenpin Bowling Federation (India), will commence at Amoeba on Monday.
A total of 153 bowlers – 118 men and 35 women – from 17 States will compete for top honours in this week-long event.
Apart from those who qualified from their respective states, the federation also organised trials in Dubai and Kuwait to attract talent among overseas based Indian bowlers.

Defending champion Naveen Siddam (Telangana), runner-up in the last edition Akaash Ashok Kumar (Karnataka), and international medalists Shabbir Dhankot (Tamil Nadu), Dhruv Sarda (Delhi) and S.A. Hameed (Delhi) will be seen in action in the men's category.

In the women's section, defending champion and 12-time national champion Sabeena Athica (Tamil Nadu) is the favorite.

A total prize fund of ₹9 lakh is on offer.

Accident Relief Care (ARC) is the title sponsor.

Honours even in dramatic North London derby

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agencies
LONDON

Son Heung-min scored twice as Tottenham maintained its unbeaten Premier League record under Ange Postecoglou by holding Arsenal to a 2-2 draw in the north London derby on Sunday.

In another match, Liverpool romped to a 3-1 win over a dogged West Ham United side at Anfield.

The results:
Arsenal 2 (Romero 26-og, Saka 54-pen) drew with Tottenham 2 (Son 42 & 55); Brighton 3 (Kerkez 45+2-og, Mitoma 46 & 77) bt Bournemouth 1 (Solanke 25).
Chelsea 0 lost to Aston Villa 1 (Watkins 73); Liverpool 3 (Salah 16-pen, Nunez 60, Jota 85) bt West Ham 1 (Bowen 42).
On Saturday: Burnley 0 lost to Man United 1 (Fernandes 45).

Sandeep, Chetan win in premier MRF Formula 2000 category

MOTORSPORT

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Sandeep Kumar and Chetan Korada won a race apiece in the premier MRF Formula 2000 category to headline the concluding day's proceedings in the second round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National car racing championships here on Sunday.

The other winners today were Jai Prashanth Venkat, Chetan Surineni, Viswas Vijayaraj, Gurunath Meiyappan, Akkineni Anand Prasad, Diljith T.S. and Angad Matharoo in various categories.

The results (Provisional-all 8 laps unless mentioned):
MRF Formula 2000 (Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Chetan Korada (16mins, 31.448secs); 2. Sandeep Kumar (16:32.071); 3. Rohaan Madesh (16:32.565). Race-3: 1. Sandeep Kumar (17:16.562); 2. Arya Singh (17:16.821); 3. Chetan Korada (17:22.307).
MRF Formula 1600 (Race-2, 10 laps): 1. Veer Sheth (Mumbai) (18.11.448); 2. Suprej Venkat (17:16.350, +1 lap). Race-3: 1. Chetan Surineni (17:34.230); 2. Veer Sheth (17:35.192); 3. Suprej Venkat (17:42.809).
Indian Touring Cars (Race-3): 1. Gurunath Meiyappan (Race Concepts Motorsports) (15:31.253); 2. Biren Pithawala (Team N1) (15:41.733); 3. Ritesh Rai (15:42.157).
Indian Junior Touring Cars (Race-3): 1. Akkineni Anand Prasad (Team Performance Racing) (15:51.593); 2. Deepak Ravikumar (Team Performance Racing) (15:53.351); 3. Yug Italia (16:32.750).
Super Stock (Race-3): 1. Dilijith TS (DTS Racing) (16:55.993); 2. Justin Singh (Redline Racing India) (17:13.108); 3. Jarshan Anand (17:22.891).
Formula LGB 1300 (Race-3): 1. Viswas Vijayaraj (DTS Racing) (15:04.180); 2. Diljith TS (DTS Racing) (15:04.330); 3. Tijil Rao (Momentum Motorsports) (15:07.432). **MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios, Race-2, 10 laps):** 1. Jai Prashanth Venkat (24:36.569); 2. Angad Matharoo (24:36.807); 3. Zahan Commissariat (24:39.118) [All Redline Racing India]. **Race-3:** 1. Angad Matharoo (16:41.170); 2. Diana Pundole (16:53.827); 3. Zahan Commissariat (17:02.412).

Victorious: Chetan Korada, winner of race 2 in MRF Formula 2000.

Buttler's England has the experience and bowling to defend its crown

WC COUNTDOWN

Ashwin Achal

England crossed the final hurdle at the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 against New Zealand in one of the most exciting cricket matches in history.

A few of England's big performers from that title-winning campaign – Joe Root, Ben Stokes, Mark Wood and Adil Rashid – feature in this edition, and will look to recreate the magic. Fast bowler Jofra Archer, the side's highest-wicket taker in 2019, misses out due to injury.

Roy misses out
The omission of Jason Roy has taken up headlines in the build up to the World Cup. Roy, initially slotted to open the batting with Jonny Bairstow, was axed from the final squad to accommodate the form pair of Dawid Malan and Harry Brook. Roy's case was weakened when a back spasm ruled him out of the ODIs against New Zealand earlier this month.

Malan is likely to take on the new ball with Bairstow, while the malleable Brook will come into the middle-order. With only six ODIs under his belt, Brook may not have experience on his side, but his huge returns in Test cricket and in the Hundred prompted this bold call from the selectors.

All-rounder Ben Stokes, the 'player-of-the-match' in the 2019 final, came out of a hiatus to play in this mega event.

Stokes had retired from ODIs in July 2022 to stay fit for Tests, but the decision was reversed when he was named in the squad to take on New Zealand.

Stokes' tremendous value was underlined when he smashed a 124-ball 182 in the third ODI.

There are concerns surrounding Root's poor form. The batter was included in the eleven in the first ODI against Ireland last week, but his wish to get into last-minute rhythm was denied when the outing was washed out. He will now step out to bat at the World Cup hoping that class overrides form.

On paper, England boasts of a strong bowling line-up, led by pacers Mark Wood and Chris Woakes, and leg-spinner Adil Rashid.

Rashid's recent fitness issues, and Wood's long layoff, however, has called into question their readiness to perform on the biggest stage.

Reliable back-up
In Sam Curran, Reece Topley and David Willey – all left-arm seamers – reliable back-up is at hand.

The squad: Jos Buttler (Capt.), Moeen Ali, Gus Atkinson, Jonny Bairstow, Sam Curran, Liam Livingstone, Dawid Malan, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes, Reece Topley, David Willey, Mark Wood, and Chris Woakes.

Impact player: The return of the talismanic Stokes augurs well for champion England. GETTY IMAGES

ACE IN THE PACK

Ben Stokes: Was there ever any doubt that England will travel to India without Ben Stokes? The maverick all-rounder, after all, holds the key to England's hopes and dreams. It could not have taken more than a gentle nudge for Stokes to give up his ODI retirement to lead England's quest to defend the title.

England

World Cup numbers

	M	W	L	T	NR
Overall	83	48	32	2	1
H2H against teams in the 2023 edition					
vs. Sri Lanka	11	6	5	0	0
vs. South Africa	7	4	3	0	0
vs. India	8	4	3	1	0
vs. New Zealand	10	4	5	1*	0
vs. Pakistan	10	4	5	0	1
vs. Netherlands	3	3	0	0	0
vs. Australia	9	3	6	0	0
vs. Afghanistan	2	2	0	0	0
vs. Bangladesh	4	2	2	0	0

Champion 2019

The England caravan

Oct. 5	vs. New Zealand	Ahmedabad	2 p.m.
Oct. 10	vs. Bangladesh	Dharamsala	10.30 a.m.
Oct. 15	vs. Afghanistan	Delhi	2 p.m.
Oct. 21	vs. South Africa	Mumbai	2 p.m.
Oct. 26	vs. Sri Lanka	Bengaluru	2 p.m.
Oct. 29	vs. India	Lucknow	2 p.m.
Nov. 4	vs. Australia	Ahmedabad	2 p.m.
Nov. 8	vs. Netherlands	Pune	2 p.m.
Nov. 11	vs. Pakistan	Kolkata	2 p.m.

*The 2019 final ended in a tie